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DEFENSE SPECIMEN OF BRITISH WAR
LITERATURE SUPPLIED FOR
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EDUCATION *in the* BRITISH ARMY



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DOCUMENTS

advances in Army Education. Comprehensive programmes, both voluntary and compulsory, have been put into operation. The facilities which they offer not only have immediate value as a morale-building factor, but encourage participants to prepare themselves, while still in the Army, for useful careers after the war.

Under the voluntary schemes—made possible by the co-operation of the Universities, Local Education Authorities, technical and professional institutes, and other organisations interested in adult education—thousands of men have been provided with greater opportunities for development than were available to them in peace time. Correspondence courses, covering a wide range of subjects, are available to men and women of all ranks at a nominal fee. Evening classes, lectures and courses are open to all who wish to attend during off-duty hours. Special provision has been made for the supply of books and equipment, and transport is provided within a twenty-mile radius of each camp. An Education Officer has been appointed in every unit of the British Army to co-ordinate and stimulate these activities.

Compulsory adult education, never incorporated in any peace-time social legislation, was established in war time within the British Army for the first time through the Army Bureau of Current Affairs.

Platoons in every section of the Army meet for one hour each week, during training time, to discuss current affairs. These discussions are led by the platoon officers, basic factual material being provided by a series of pamphlets issued by the War Office.

The compulsory education period was increased in the Home Commands by the Winter Schemes of 1942-3 and 1943-4. These Schemes provided an additional three hours' compulsory training each week in military matters, citizenship, and such subjects as the individual might select. Of particular interest and value is the connected course in citizenship, based on a series of booklets entitled The British Way and Purpose, to which one hour a week is compulsorily devoted throughout the year.

Education in the British Army is based on the principle that a soldier of a democracy, in the words of Cromwell's famous definition, should "know what he fights for, and love what he knows".

The ever-growing importance of education in the British Army has been reflected in the recent appointment of a distinguished educationist as Director-General of Army Education. It is his task to consolidate the foundations that have been laid, and to plan and make ready the wider organisation that will be needed when the time comes to prepare men and women awaiting demobilisation for their return to active citizenship and the pursuit of their chosen work.

EDUCATION IN THE BRITISH ARMY

I. INTRODUCTION

Educational facilities have been part of British Army life for well over a century, although before 1914 they were concerned mainly with providing an elementary standard of knowledge rather than with adult education in the wider sense. During the First World War, a large number of unofficial schemes developed through the initiative of the troops themselves and through the agency of various voluntary organisations, particularly the Y.M.C.A. and the Workers' Educational Association. In 1918, a War Office Committee under the chairmanship of Lord Gorell recommended plans for co-ordinating many of these schemes under War Office direction. Although the Gorell Report was not fully implemented, it bore fruit in 1920, when the Army Educational Corps was formally constituted as a Corps of the Regular Army.

Between 1920 and 1939, the Army Educational Corps was responsible for the general education of the soldiers; the elementary education of soldiers' children where civilian schools were not available; the making of special provision for the education of officers; and the maintaining of tests and examinations. A system of educational Certificates was introduced and related to promotion and proficiency pay. These Certificates ranged from the Third (a simple test in literacy) to the Special (equivalent to University matriculation). Educational training was made compulsory up to the Second Class Certificate.

II. WAR-TIME DEVELOPMENTS

While it was possible during peace time to provide education for the soldier on a comparatively stable basis, it was obvious that a new organisation was needed to meet the rapid expansion, frequent movement and constant change of a modern army at war. At the beginning of the Second World War, accordingly, the existing educational facilities of the British Army and the system of educational Certificates were suspended, many of the members of the Army Educational Corps being transferred temporarily to other duties.

A. Organisation of the War-time Education Scheme

A new organisation soon developed under the supervision of a Directorate of Army Education at the War Office. A close partnership was established between the Army Educational Corps and the Central Advisory Council for Adult Education in H.M. Forces. A note on each of these partners, and on the organisation of Army Education within the unit, will make the picture plain.

(i) *The Army Educational Corps.*

The A.E.C. was quickly recalled to deal with the widespread demand for education which arose from units. The

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Corps has expanded steadily both at home and overseas—it is now more than three times its peace-time strength—and a number of highly qualified officers, warrant officers and sergeants have been added to its original establishment.

The A.E.C. officer combines his military duties with those of a director of education, an inspector, a principal of a training college, a lecturer, a teacher, as well as an accountant and a public relations officer. It is his job to stimulate and organise education in its many aspects and to ensure that all reasonable demands are met. A.T.S. Staff Officers for Education have similar responsibilities with regard to the Auxiliary Territorial Service, since the whole of the Army Education Scheme applies equally to men and women—and its activities are open to officers no less than to other ranks.

(ii) *The Central Advisory Council.*

At the end of 1939, a Central Advisory Council for Adult Education in H.M. Forces was formed in order to bring together the educational resources of the whole country and place them at the disposal of men and women in the Armed Forces. The Council is made up of representatives from the Universities, the Board of Education, the Service Departments, Local Education Authorities and voluntary societies concerned with adult education. Twenty-three Regional Committees were formed on the same joint basis, working within the normal extra-mural area of the University or University College in which they were centred.

These Committees, which are financed through the War Office, work in close co-operation with the A.E.C. officers in their areas. Each has a panel of lecturers on a wide range of subjects, who are prepared to visit units and give lectures or informal talks, lead discussions or give educational advice and help to groups or individuals. These lecturers are drawn not only from teachers in schools and Universities, but from among professional and business men, artists and musicians, travellers and administrators.

(iii) Unit Resources.

In every unit of the British Army an officer is nominated, who, in addition to his normal duties, acts as Unit Education Officer. He is responsible for ascertaining the interests of his men, and for informing them of educational facilities. He also acts as their liaison officer with the Army Educational Corps and the Regional Committees.

In some cases, the Education Officer is helped by a small voluntary committee representing all ranks. These committees are not an integral part of the Army Education Scheme, but their formation is greatly encouraged, since they ensure that the variety of subjects covered by the Scheme is wide enough to appeal to every type of soldier. It is the duty of the U.E.O. to encourage men of all ranks who are competent to give talks on specific subjects to lead discussions and to organise courses. From the outset, there has been no lack of officers and men prepared to give up their spare time to teach their fellow soldiers anything from book-keeping to Russian grammar.

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Ex-architects have discussed town planning, former journalists have talked about foreign affairs, artists and musicians have put their professional knowledge at the disposal of the amateur. Plans of this kind within the unit are particularly useful among Home troops stationed at an inconvenient distance from town, or among units on Foreign Service. The garrisons of Tobruk and Gibraltar developed their own "home-produced" education schemes, which could compete with those of any more favourably placed unit in Britain.

B. The Voluntary Scheme and its Scope

The section that follows does not give an inclusive picture of the varied educational activities organised and provided through the Army Educational Corps and the Regional Committees. Among the most important, however, are the following :—

(i) *Lectures and Classes.*

The greatest demand from units is for courses, talks, and discussions on home and international affairs as a background to social reconstruction. The compulsory "British Way and Purpose" and Army Bureau of Current Affairs schemes, which are described later in detail, greatly stimulated what has become an almost insatiable demand for objective information on these topics. During the last year more than 300,000 lectures have been given, approxi-

civilian lecturers.

When stationed within easy reach of a town, men are encouraged to attend regular courses arranged by the Local Education Authorities. Among the subjects taught are welding, economics, languages such as French, Spanish and Russian, building construction, book-keeping, carpentry, engineering, and engineering drawing. Text-books and apparatus are put freely at the men's disposal, and the Army provides transport within a twenty-mile radius to take the troops to such courses.

(ii) Arts and Crafts.

Much is done to promote the appreciation and practice of music, drama and art. Music appreciation circles, lecture recitals, unit choirs and bands, sketching clubs, visits to exhibitions and picture galleries, play-reading and play-production groups, touring theatre companies—all have a part in encouraging these creative activities.

Closely allied to this branch of education is the pursuit of handicrafts. In a large number of units there are groups of men or women at work, some organised into formal classes under expert handicraft instructors, and others working in model-making clubs, in hobby centres or as individual craftsmen. During the last quarter there were more than 25,000 class meetings in handicrafts, including wood, plastics and metal work, clay modelling,

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The Southern Command Symphony Orchestra, formed from serving soldiers, was conducted by Sir Adrian Boult on the occasion of its first public performance.

upholstery, bookbinding, toy making, rug weaving and the building of models.

(iii) Modern Languages.

The learning of modern languages has been encouraged by the production and issue of special text-books and gramophone records in French, German, Spanish and Russian. Similar aids to the learning of Italian and Arabic are in preparation.

(iv) Basic Education.

It is perhaps inevitable that in a citizen army recruited on a universal basis there should be a small proportion of men who for one reason or another have made little progress in learning to read or write. Systematic classes have, therefore, been organised to deal with these subjects, and it has proved possible, where the causes of illiteracy are accidental rather than innate, to put educationally backward men on the road to literacy. Many a man has displayed a pleasure amounting sometimes to excitement over the achievement of a first awkward letter to his wife or sweetheart.

(v) Correspondence Courses.

Correspondence courses, to be undertaken in the students' spare time, are available not only to the Army, but to men

16. Can I make up my mind?

and women of all ranks in all three Fighting Services. Owing to the time taken to transmit written work, enrolments can be accepted only from Great Britain, Northern Ireland, Gibraltar, Iceland, and North and West Africa.

No charge is made for the courses apart from a token enrolment fee of ten shillings. Essential text-books for each course are loaned to the students through the Services Central Book Depot.

The courses are of two types :—

(a) Vocational courses for men and women whose professional or business careers have been interrupted by their war service, or who wish to train for a new career. Courses are provided in such subjects as accountancy, architecture, banking, engineering, estate management, grocery, insurance, and law.

(b) Postal study courses in general educational subjects, such as English, history, art, mathematics, and science.

From September 1941 to December 1943 there were 43,418 enrolments for vocational courses (Army 27,230 ; Royal Navy 3,671 ; R.A.F. 12,517), and 40,342 for postal study courses (Army 25,666 ; Royal Navy 3,777 ; R.A.F. 10,899.)

(vi) Miscellaneous Activities.

These aspects of the voluntary side of Army Education have been selected for separate notice. Apart from the

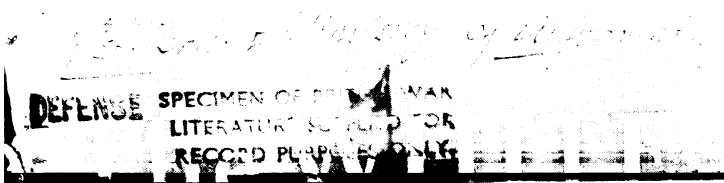
staple fare of lectures, classes and courses in subjects as diverse as mathematics, map-reading and "make and mend", or mechanics, modelling and modern languages, to take but a sample of an alphabetical list, there is a wide range of informal activities. These include discussion groups, literary and debating clubs; brains trusts, "quizzes" and spelling "bees"; mock parliaments; inter-unit competitions in oratory, essay writing or regional survey; rambling and photographic clubs in the summer; and visits to factories, public utility undertakings, schools, hospitals or meetings of Local Government Councils.

(vii) Some Special Spheres.

Special schemes have been developed within the general framework to provide for the particular needs of men in hospitals and convalescent homes, detention barracks, Young Soldiers' Training Centres, troopships and other special establishments. The special needs of the Auxiliary Territorial Service are not forgotten, and the expansion of Army Education to provide for troops overseas, whether in the Middle East, North Africa, Italy, Sicily, or in more widely separated garrisons, has been a marked feature of the last year.

(viii) Books, Equipment and Accommodation.

Generous provision is made for the supply of books for organised classes, for correspondence courses, and to meet recreational needs, both at home and overseas. Public



libraries have willingly thrown open their doors to members of the Forces, and in many cases have made special arrangements to supply books direct to units. Education Centres, Information Rooms and Quiet Rooms provide accommodation for a host of educational activities. In them the serious student can find a quiet haven for study, the discussion group can meet and find a wealth of pictorial material ready to hand, and the soldier who wants to withdraw from "the madding crowd" can find peace and solitude.

Educational films have played an increasingly important part in the scheme. Gramophones and records provide the basis for music appreciation circles and for the study of modern languages. Exhibitions are circulated to illustrate the subjects for discussion under the B.W.P. and A.B.C.A. schemes.

C. The Compulsory Scheme.

In the early stages of the war all Army Education was of the kind already mentioned—*voluntary*. The emphasis was that no "educational barrage" should be laid down on the troops. But for the winter months from November 1942 to February 1943, a special *compulsory* scheme was introduced to provide the Army (including, of course, the Auxiliary Territorial Service) with three hours of education each week during training or working hours. This Winter Scheme was repeated during the winter 1943-4.



Soldier pupils at an Army Course in Basic Education in Scotland.

In allocating these three hours, the man (or woman) beneath the uniform is regarded as three persons in one, each requiring consideration.

(i) As a Soldier.

One hour is devoted to instruction in military subjects which are not quite within the province of more specific

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military training—map-reading, message-writing, regimental history, military mathematics, and the like. Because the needs of different arms of the Service, and even the needs of different units, vary so much, no attempt is made to provide from the centre anything more than general suggestions.

(ii) As an Individual.

Moreover, each man is a human being, with individual interests of his own. When he joins the Army, he leaves behind the opportunities for pursuing these interests, and yet in the "mass-living" of an Army the need for them is all the more urgent. Accordingly, one hour is allotted to these interests—to be used for activities ranging from handicrafts to the appreciation of music, of literature and of art, from modern languages to regional survey.

(iii) As a Citizen.

But the soldier and the individual is also the citizen of a democracy. His soldiering is an expression of his citizenship. More than that. We are all fighting not only to defeat the purposes of the enemy, but also for the opportunity to achieve our own purposes. And the use of that opportunity will depend on how each man and woman measures up to his or her responsibilities in our democracy.

When the first compulsory Winter Scheme was introduced, the third hour was devoted to a course in citizenship,

which would help to induce the realisation that the end of the war will not permit the relaxation of individual efforts, but will require the redirection of them to the tasks of peace, if Britain is to be a nation "at full stride, going forward".

For this course, central direction was provided. The War Office issued a monthly series of booklets, called *The British Way and Purpose*, which, on topics ranging from parliamentary government to Imperial and Anglo-American relations, provided basic information for talks and discussion in all units. From the beginning, this exercise in citizenship, this "limbering up" in preparation for the return to full democratic responsibility, was successful enough both to be continued and extended.

In the first place it was confined to units in Britain. Gradually it has been taken up, mostly as a voluntary programme, by the armies in the Middle East, Persia, Iraq, North Africa, and India, and the R.A.F. and the U.S. Forces in Britain have received substantial supplies of each of the booklets. The original course ran only for four months, but now the scheme has been continued, to become a fixed feature of Army life. The realisation that war and peace are indivisible has been given steadfast recognition.

D. The British Way and Purpose (B.W.P.)

In its continuance as a permanent and compulsory factor in military training, the B.W.P. scheme has remained true

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to its original purpose. Through all its variety of topics it has consistently asserted to each man and woman in the Army : " These are your problems : what is done about them will depend on your contribution ; what is achieved will reflect your knowledgeableness, your intelligence, your action—or your ignorance, your prejudice, your apathy."

Like any other scheme of education for citizenship it has four main aims : to awaken interest ; to begin to provide the essential information the citizen needs ; to help in the training of the citizen to interpret that information and on

*A.B.C.A., by means of lectures, talks and debates,
helps to keep the Army alive to events of the day.*



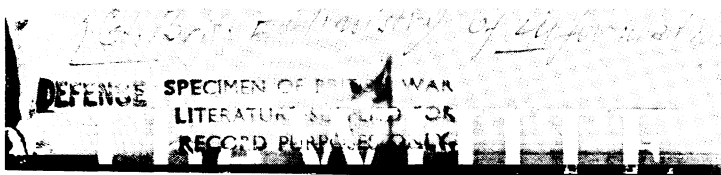
that basis to make his judgment of what should be done ; and to foster his practical ability for taking action. There are obvious limits to the pursuit of these aims in war time and within an Army. There is, for example, the need of maintaining a balance, and the possibility of a tension between the military requirements of security, efficiency and discipline and the principles of free, democratic and active education. There is the removal of the soldier from opportunities of political action. And so on. But within the limits the scheme has been pressed on.

About its operation three main questions may be asked.

(i) *Who does it ?*

For manning the scheme there were two opposed possibilities—the creation of a separate corps of specialists, bringing technical efficiency plus a suspicion of indoctrination to the job, or reliance on existing resources, whether among the ordinary officers and men of the units or among the “professionals” already in action. The choice was immediately for the second alternative.

Many of the B.W.P. sessions in units are taken by the “professionals”, i.e., by members of the A.E.C. and by civilian lecturers within the organisation of the Central Advisory Council. But these resources cannot cover the whole field. Increasingly, the resources of the units themselves are being used—sometimes officers, but more frequently other ranks. And that trend is being fully encouraged.



No doubt a unit instructor may sometimes lack expert technical proficiency, but as compensation he has a unique effectiveness of his own. His conduct of the B.W.P. session is an example of democratic responsibility in action ; it is a practical reinforcement of the central B.W.P. theme. In that conviction the lay-out of the booklets is adapted for his ready use. Each booklet has four short, simple chapters, providing a ready-made pattern for the month's four sessions. The unit instructor is provided with simple diagrams to illustrate his sessions and in each chapter are incorporated Notes, which suggest how he may bring the topic alive for his group. Regular monthly conferences are organised locally, at which ways and means of dealing with the current booklet are explained and discussed.

(ii) *What is in it?*

The B.W.P. series is planned in sequences of four to six months and each sequence follows a definite pattern. The sequence now running is typical. Under the title *To-day and To-morrow*, it deals with war-time developments which are not only immediately important but are significant for the future. In covering the "groundwork" of the future which is now being laid, the early booklets in the sequence deal successively with *The Family and Neighbourhood*, *The Nation at Work*, *Britain in Europe*, *The British Empire*.

This sequence attempts to satisfy the general specifications set for the whole series. It is objective—to provide

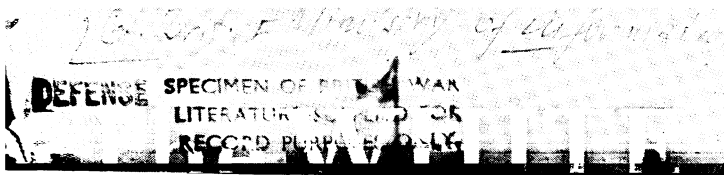
the background of information and to raise the questions, not to provide ready-made answers. It seeks initially to increase the understanding of domestic problems. But there is no close-range concentration on home affairs. After getting Britain's own "way and purpose" defined, then—and indeed only then—there opens up properly the question of co-operation with other nations. Throughout the series, the dependence of Britain on these relations is emphasised.

(iii) *How is it done?*

The idea of the B.W.P. session is the gathering of a *small* number of men for a *short* talk and *free* discussion. All three adjectives are heavily underlined for the guidance of instructors. But the ingenuity of instructors is both encouraged and prompted.

They organise local visits that illustrate the topic of the month—a discussion on neighbourhood planning is linked with a visit to a new housing estate, or an old slum. First-hand experts are invited in for a session, to be questioned and heckled by the group; perhaps the local Member of Parliament is subjected by the group to its queries on parliamentary government. One enterprising group, in dealing with the same topic, took advantage of a local Parliamentary Election to survey and discuss all the activities of that part of democracy in action.

These are, perhaps, the high-lights of the picture. There



are shadows, too—though no darker than would be expected in any scheme of adult education that is compulsory, universal and largely dependent on instructors who have little time and no special training for the job. But from all the activity there is the certainty that many men and women are seeing their first glimpse of democratic responsibility. They will help to define the British way and purpose more clearly after the war. And that clarity has to begin at home, before it can enlighten international understanding.

E. The Army Bureau of Current Affairs (A.B.C.A.)

In September 1941 the Army Council decided to embark on a new educational plan, for it was realised that the then wholly voluntary War-time Education Scheme could not satisfy the growing demand for clearer knowledge about current affairs and national issues. As a result the Army Bureau of Current Affairs was established. It is administered by a Directorate in the War Office with the authority of the Army Council. It has, therefore, a separate entity distinct from the War-time Education Scheme, although both programmes work in close collaboration.

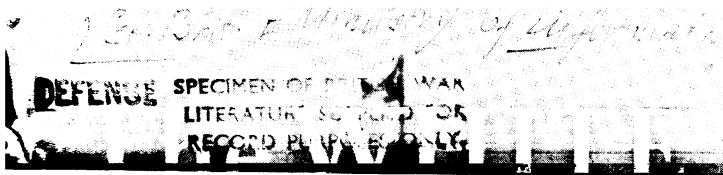
The local agents of A.B.C.A. in Commands, Corps, Districts and Divisions, etc., are the officers of the Army Educational Corps.



An A.B.C.A. course for non-commissioned officers teaches them how to arrange interesting wall displays of maps and photographs.

The argument behind A.B.C.A., as explained in a War Office pamphlet, runs as follows :—

- i. The soldier who understands the cause for which he fights is likely to be a more reliable soldier than the one who does not.



- ii. Many soldiers have no such understanding, and many others are losing touch with the sources of knowledge and information they used to possess.
- iii. It is the business of the Army to make good this deficiency of knowledge, and, therefore, to devise what means are possible to keep the men abreast of current affairs.

Accordingly, the purpose of A.B.C.A. is to provide, during working or training hours, instruction and discussion about the outstanding and vital problems and issues of the day.

In concrete terms, A.B.C.A. means that once a week for an hour platoons in every section of the British Army meet to air and discuss their views on current topics. Material for these discussions is provided by two bulletins, *War* and *Current Affairs*, which are issued on alternate weeks to all officers. *War* provides general military intelligence from all theatres of operations. *Current Affairs* gives a background against which events can be assessed and understood. The material in *Current Affairs* is written, to a large extent, by civilians who are expert in some particular field. Harold Nicolson, for example, wrote on the causes of the war; Sir Stafford Cripps on his mission to India. The material is objective and advocates no given or party view, the purpose of the scheme being not to teach the Army what to think, but to give the troops an opportunity to form their own views from a clear presentation of facts.

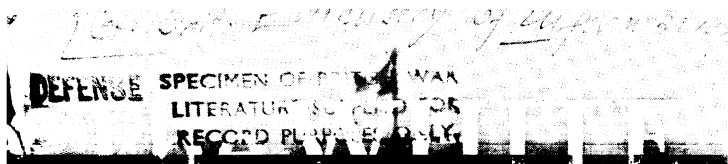
On the basis of these pamphlets, platoon commanders give a brief outline of the subject—"The Struggle for Oil", "America's Role in the War", "Why Women are being

Called Up ", etc. The talk lasts not more than twenty minutes and is illustrated wherever possible by blackboard maps, diagrams or photographs. It is followed by questions and free discussion. Officers are urged to regard themselves as chairmen of a group rather than lecturers of a class. The soldier may ask any and every question. He can talk, instead of being talked to. He can argue, and express his doubts or misgivings. He is a citizen as well as a soldier, a thinking individual and not a mere number in a regimental list. The War Office has insisted that if these discussions are to be a lively two-way transaction they must be on a platoon basis, with an audience of from 30 to 40 men.

It was realised that in many cases the officers who lead the discussions may be no less ignorant of the topic on hand than the average soldier. It was, however, obviously impossible to provide trained discussion leaders for every platoon.

It was felt that if he had a rudimentary technique in keeping to the point, controlling the discussion, summing up, and tackling questions, and had the confidence and affection of his men, the average officer might make a better chairman of A.B.C.A. sessions than any expert.

In order to give officers some training in group leadership and technique, courses lasting five days are arranged at the Army School of Education (A.B.C.A.), Coleg Harlech, North Wales. In addition, one-day, two-day and week-end courses are held from time to time in various centres in each Command, often in conjunction with the



appropriate Regional Committee. The latest experiment in this direction is for "Travelling Teams" of Army Educational Corps personnel to tour units in a Command, giving Demonstration Talks and publicising A.B.C.A. and B.W.P. activities and facilities. An officer of the A.B.C.A. Directorate visits every Officer Cadet Training Unit at regular intervals to give Demonstration Talks to all officer cadets during their training.

A.B.C.A. represents not merely a weekly discussion. In many units it has had interesting offshoots in wall newspapers, visual aids, and reading circles. "Current Affairs Rooms" have been established in some of the larger camps, equipped with maps, charts, newspapers, periodicals, and reference books. A.B.C.A. issues *Map Review* each fortnight, to be used in conjunction with the discussion periods. The front is devoted to maps of the World, Europe and the Far East in attractive colours, with pithy comments on the main events of the preceding two weeks, and maps and photographs of particular interest during the same period. The back of *Map Review* is a pictorial display of subjects of more general interest, such as life in one of the Dominions ; the A.T.S. at work ; the Navy ; the R.A.F., etc. In more recent issues full-page maps (40 in. by 30 in.) of the following have been produced :—

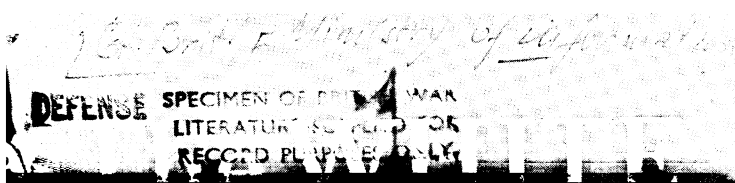
Hitler's "Fortress" Europe.
"Fortress" Europe's Balkan Bastion.
"Fortress" Europe's Western Moat.
Scotland.
Italy.
Russia.

A.B.C.A. films, photographs and travelling exhibits circulate among the canteens and rest rooms. The topics include : "British History Through Maps", "The Development of Modern Aircraft", "Town Planning", "Housing", "Soviet Industry", etc. The British Broadcasting Corporation devotes part of two weekly features to talks reinforcing the A.B.C.A. bulletin for that week.

Units have organised "Brains Trusts" from their own more knowledgeable members. Questions of fact which cannot be answered locally may be sent to The Royal Institute of International Affairs and to The British Association for International Understanding.

A.B.C.A. instructs the soldier in the progress of the war and current affairs by promoting discussion.





Since A.B.C.A. was introduced in the Army, the other Services have adopted it in gradually increasing volume. The A.B.C.A. bulletins and *Map Review* now go to all H.M. ships, to R.A.F. units, and to Canadian and American Forces now in Great Britain.

The arguments that lie behind the whole A.B.C.A. scheme for the Army apply just as much to the A.T.S. Weekly discussions are held in all A.T.S. units, sometimes in mixed groups with the soldiers from the adjacent military unit, sometimes the auxiliaries on their own. A.T.S. officers are trained to lead these discussions at the many A.B.C.A. courses for men and women held all over the country, and a considerable proportion of the vacancies at the A.B.C.A. School at Harlech go to the A.T.S. As auxiliaries are often called upon to do jobs which, at first sight, may appear to be rather remote from the actual business of winning the war, the problem of maintaining morale is a very important one. A.B.C.A. can do a great deal to help with this problem by reminding auxiliaries of the issues at stake in this war and by showing them that their particular contribution is absolutely vital to the war effort. The fact that almost all the problems of reconstruction at home, the current campaigns and international problems are discussed with increasing interest in the A.T.S. seems to prove that A.B.C.A. is fulfilling its dual function here, that of maintaining morale in the present emergency and that of encouraging a realisation of the responsibilities of citizenship in the future.

This experiment, which is one of the great educational ventures of the war, has been fully justified by its results.

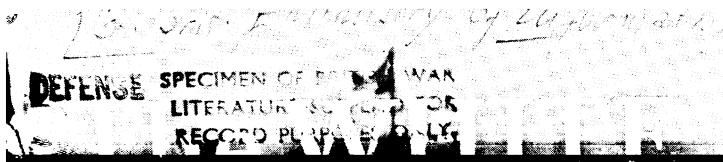
Progress reports show that the weekly talks have created a new relationship between officers and men. Many of the officers have said that they now read their newspapers with greater care and listen to broadcasts with more attention than ever before, in order to find new points for the weekly discussions. The men have in most cases responded enthusiastically, for they see in A.B.C.A. the ideal opportunity of discussing as citizens what they fight for as soldiers.

The Army Bureau of Current Affairs has been experimenting with another method of keeping the Army abreast of, and interested in, the events and ideas of the world to-day. They are forming a company of Service actors and actresses to tour units, giving demonstration performances of a new kind of theatre.

On a bare stage, but with the aid of spotlights, gramophone records and loudspeakers, they play short pieces of "documentary theatre" summarising the history of great events—discussing ideas, drawing parallels and pointing contrasts. The technique used has a good deal in common with that used in America by the Federal Theatre in their "Living Newspapers", though usually there is rather more participation by the audience, and the productions, which are given even in the smallest huts on remote gun sites, are simpler.

These shows have created such interest among the troops that many units are preparing similar productions from their own resources and often writing their own scripts.

This seems to be a movement which, if it spreads, may have a vitalising effect on the British theatre after the war.



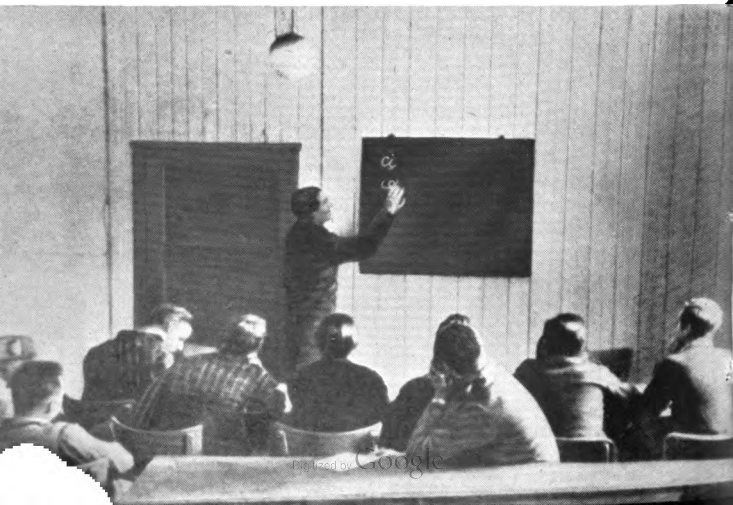
III. EDUCATION OF PRISONERS OF WAR

The education of prisoners of war is not an integral part of Army education. British prisoners of war in Germany can, however, continue their education in the prison camps. This work is organised by the Red Cross Prisoners of War Educational Books Section, with the co-operation of the Universities and other educational bodies and professional institutions. Correspondence colleges have undertaken to supply courses free of charge to prisoners of war, and study books are supplied direct from England or from the reserve of 50,000 books at Geneva, sent out by the Educational Books Section of the Red Cross, under the auspices of the International Red Cross. Some 183,000 books have also been sent out to individual prisoners of war and prison camps direct from the Education Section.

Each student is catered for individually and courses of study are planned according to students' varying needs. In addition, camp libraries are stocked with text-books and reference books needed by the classes organised in the camps. Of the 26,000 men now participating in the scheme, more than 5,000 are actually studying for degrees, diplomas or other examinations, and 2,709 have already sat for their papers. Eighty-eight examining bodies, covering almost every academic, professional and vocational examination subject, have now given permission for their examinations to be held in prison camps. Among the most popular are the University of London examinations, modern language examinations set by the Royal Society of Arts, and engineering and technical examinations, but

other prisoners are taking examinations in law, horticulture, insurance, advertising, banking, surveying, accountancy, agriculture, transport, shipping, literature and general education. The examinations are held under the supervision of the Camp Education Officer, or Camp Leader, and the answered papers are sent back to the Educational Books Section of the British Red Cross, who forward them to the examining bodies for correction. One of the largest Stalags has a school with 41 qualified tutors, teaching every variety of subject, and in many other camps (including, especially, the Royal Navy and Merchant Navy camps) there are schools or organised classes and lectures. At one

British prisoners of war in Germany can attend classes on many and varied subjects.



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From results already published, it is calculated that 75 per cent. of prisoners-of-war candidates are successful in their examinations ; several men have won prizes for outstanding papers in competition with candidates at home, and many examiners have commented on the high standard of the papers submitted to them by prisoners of war.

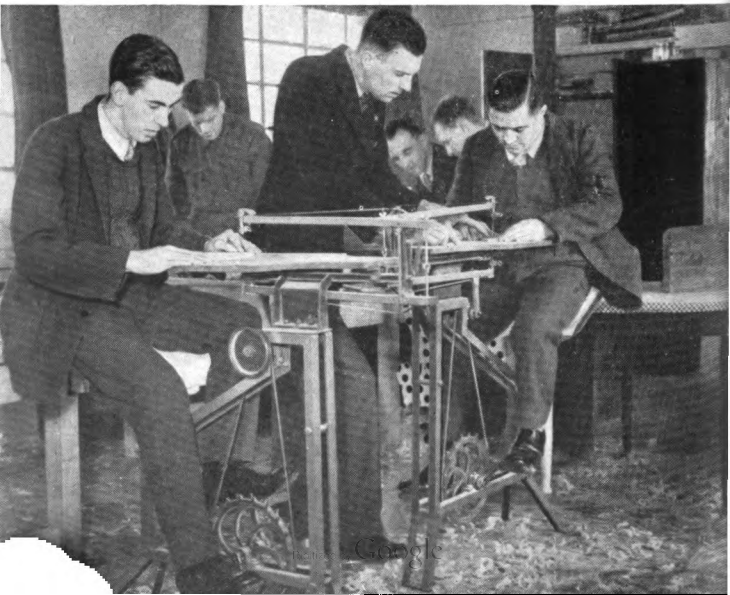
This Scheme is designed to assist men and women who have been prevented from completing their education by their war service or who are unable to return to their pre-service careers, to undertake or continue a course of further education or training (i.e., beyond the secondary school standard). In addition to proving that their training or careers have been interrupted, it is a primary condition of eligibility that there should have been a period of full-time effective service in work of national importance during the war. Candidates must also show that they have the capabilities or potentialities to suggest that the training would justify the expenditure of public money.

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have been discharged from their war service through disablement or on medical grounds and who are not required by the Ministry of Labour and National Service to undertake other forms of national service, may apply at once.

Although men of the regular Army, Navy or Air Force will not be able to claim that their careers have been

Patients with leg wounds work at cycle fretsaws to strengthen their injured limbs.



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interrupted by their war service, those who are discharged because of disability will be eligible to apply for awards under the Scheme.

Awards may be made for training at a University or a technical college, or for other courses designed to equip the applicant for a professional career. Awards may also be made in appropriate cases for training which involves attendance and work in an office or other place of business (e.g., training under Articles with a solicitor). Part-time courses are not necessarily excluded.

Generally speaking, the type of work or profession for which the applicant will be assisted to train will be one which requires the attainment of a recognised standard as a condition of entry or in which technical training or higher education will materially improve an entrant's prospects of advancement to a responsible or administrative post.

A successful applicant will receive an award varying in accordance with his existing obligations and his financial resources, if any. The award will be designed to enable him to take the full course of training which he may need. The needs of married candidates will receive special consideration.

On February 9th, 1944, the Minister of Labour and National Service, Mr. Bevin, said : " Some 1,170 applications have already been received under the Further Education and Training Scheme". He added that " assistance will be given under the Scheme in appropriate cases to persons whose educational training was of a part-time nature ".

V. REHABILITATION OF THE INJURED

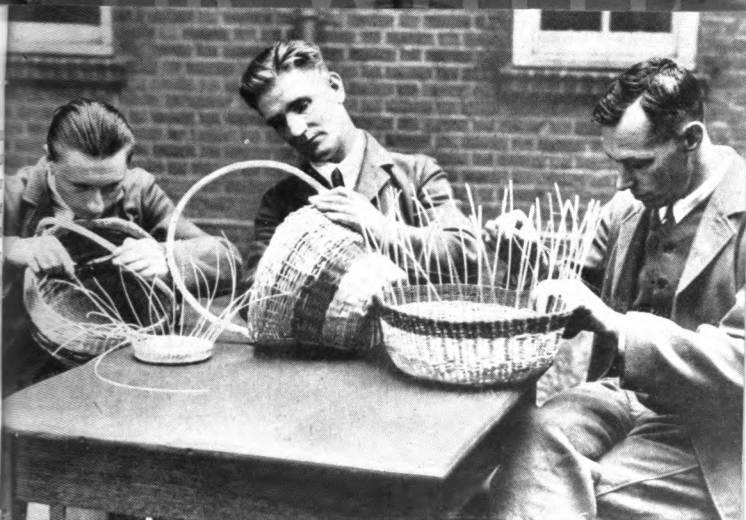
It has been fully realised that it is a national obligation not only to give all immediate help to war casualties, but to provide them also with sufficient training to fit them for the most suitable kind of employment. Although the British schemes for rehabilitation include not only members of the Fighting Forces, but civilians injured in air raids or through accidents in factories as well, they deserve mention in connection with Army Education, since they follow the same principle that every member of the citizen army, whether in uniform or out of it, is entitled to every facility for equipping himself for a return to the normal life of peace time.

Interim Scheme

In October 1941 the Ministry of Labour and National Service introduced an Interim Scheme for the Training and Resettlement of Disabled Persons. The object of the Scheme is to assist disabled persons to obtain suitable employment and to provide vocational training where necessary for this purpose. Training under the Scheme is available to disabled persons over the age of 16.

It is inevitable that in war time training should be concentrated in the main in occupations which are in demand for the war effort, such as munitions, engineering (draughtsmanship, fitting, instrument making, machine operating, welding, inspecting and viewing), and building trades. Training is, however, provided in other occupations such

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Convalescent soldiers engaged in making baskets to avoid possible boredom.

as commercial subjects and watch and clock repairing. Training is provided at Government Training Centres, and it has been found by experience that a substantial proportion of the disabled are able to take the ordinary courses, which, being designed to increase the labour force for munitions work, carry a wage payment. But where disabled persons are unable to take one of the ordinary courses, special courses to suit them are provided,

either at the Government Training Centres or at special Centres with previous experience in training the disabled for industry, at technical colleges, or at employers' works.

While undergoing training through such courses disabled persons receive maintenance allowances and travelling expenses where necessary, together with allowances for dependants. The wages or allowances are paid irrespective of any pensions or other payments which the disabled persons may receive in respect of the disabilities, and the cost of training is paid by the Ministry. Up to the end of September 1943, just over 100,000 disabled persons had been dealt with under this Scheme, of whom 7,000 had been put into training.

Tomlinson Committee Report

In December 1941 an Inter-Departmental Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of Mr. George Tomlinson, M.P., to consider measures for a comprehensive plan for the rehabilitation, training and employment of disabled persons in the post-war period. The findings of the Committee were published as a White Paper in January 1943. Broadly speaking, the Tomlinson Report envisages the resettlement of every man and woman, disabled to almost any degree, in some form of work which will make him or her self-supporting after the war. The Committee recommended that the scheme should be regarded as a social service, and its cost should be met and recognised as a public obligation.

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The Disabled Persons (Employment) Act, which follows closely the recommendations of the Tomlinson Report, received the Royal Assent on March 1st, 1944. The measure will come into operation on such day or days as an Order in Council may appoint.


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(March 1944)

Printed in Great Britain by B & M Ltd.



This Army Sergeant has become expert at carpet-making during his convalescence at an Emergency Medical Service centre.

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**pocket
guide
to**

BURMA

Bullock cart and pagoda

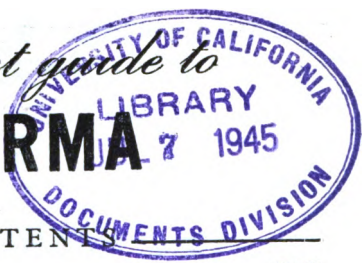


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a pocket guide to

BURMA

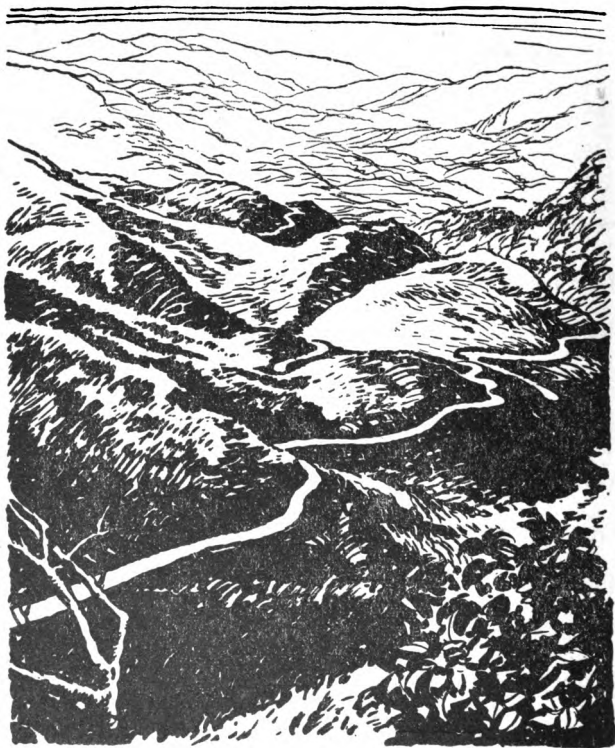


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I



The Burma Road

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DEFENSE SPECIMEN OF BRITISH WAR
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WHAT THE WAR HAS MEANT TO BURMA

JUST before Christmas 1941 the first attacking aircraft roared out of the east to blast the towns and villages of Burma. Thousands of men, women and children were slaughtered in these raids, delivered, as were so many Japanese attacks, on the civil populations of strategic centres. They were meant to terrorize the workers behind the battle line, to sear and maim them into panic and flight, and they succeeded only too well. Close after them came the invaders, uncouth and ruthless men exploiting every trick they had learned in their years of butchery in China. Seeping along the forest paths, blocking the supply lines of the meagre forces opposed to them, disguising themselves as Burmese, playing upon every Burmese fear and weakness in a *blitzkrieg* of propaganda by radio, "bomphlet" and fifth column; the Japanese flood rolled forward irresistibly to the fringes of India and Yunnan. Our rule in Upper Burma was over, a bare half century after it had begun.

The enemy then set about consolidating his gains in his usual grim and efficient manner. Labour was conscripted to repair the ravages of the campaign, all stocks of useful commodities were requisitioned, farmers were turned off rice production to grow crops required by the Japanese war machine, a Quisling Government was formed and granted, with a great flourish of trumpets, Independence within the Co-prosperity Sphere.

But in the meantime the United Nations had recovered from their first set-backs, and from the middle of 1942 onwards Burma heard once again the familiar roar. Now it came from the west, an ever-growing flood of British and American warplanes striking hard at the Japanese. But this meant hitting Japanese-occupied villages, steamers and river-craft, communications, railway engines and rolling-stock, road transport, bridges, oil installations, rice and timber mills and a dozen other things as vital to the life of the Burmese people as to the invader.

And a second great land battle is now scorching the country as it moves steadily south along the roads to Mandalay, a portent of bigger things and greater destruction still to come.

All this has brought the same sort of misery to the Burmese as the French, the Belgians, the Russians and countless others have suffered on the battlegrounds of the west. Loss of homes, livestock and food, lack of once imported necessities, maldistribution of supplies, forced labour on repair and defence works, inflation, restrictions and the constant watch of the Japanese on every movement. Last, but not least, it has meant bearing the infamous behaviour of the Japanese soldier towards a conquered people, especially the womenfolk.

Though the war has by-passed some fortunate rural areas, it has left, on the country and the people as a whole, deep and painful scars. It is our job to heal those scars and bring back peace and prosperity to this once happy and beautiful land. This booklet will give you some idea

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of your individual part, but much will depend on your own commonsense approach to the Burmese. Put yourself in their shoes and try to work out how *you* would feel if your country had suddenly changed hands, and your powerful protectors been defeated. Don't get drawn into arguments about the 1942 campaign. Retreats are always painful, not only to the troops who have to withdraw, but even more so to the civilians who are left behind to face whatever a brutal enemy may inflict. There never has been a retreat that did not leave behind ugly memories, hasty misjudgments and bitter recriminations. This time it will be the Japs' turn to find the answers. We have made our "come-back" as quickly as we could. We mean to get rid of the enemy as soon as possible and do our best for the Burmese to re-establish themselves in a better post-war world.

THE COUNTRY YOU ARE GOING TO

MOST PEOPLE outside Burma get the idea that the whole country is a tangled mass of impenetrable jungle from end to end. If you were one of Wingate's *Chindits* or have fought your way into the country through the sparsely populated northern hills or the dense coastal rain-forests of Arakan, you probably still think so, for you have arrived "the hard way" and seen the worst that will befall you till you reach the borders of Siam. But Burma has very sharply marked physical and climatic regions which differ greatly and have entirely different effects on the men and machines that have to fight through them.

Take a look at the map in the middle of the booklet. You see a queer tadpole-shaped country more than a thousand miles in length and about five hundred miles across at its widest. Its area is about 250,000 square miles, larger than France, and it stretches from Tibet in the north to within a few degrees of the Equator. Strategically it is of great importance, a bulwark between India and the Mongolian countries of the Far East, and a back door into China and Siam. The relief map shows you that the central plain of the Irrawaddy is bounded on the west, north and east by an immense circlet of great mountain



Boats on the Irrawaddy River

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masses, the ridges running generally north—south, their heights varying from about 4,000 ft. to nearly 20,000 ft. These mountainous regions take up nearly 50 per cent. of the whole area of Burma.

Burma's northern frontier lies along pinnacles covered in eternal snow, the southern "tail" stretches down the western half of the great Malayan peninsula, a land of damp and sweltering luxuriance. The western marches with India lie through the Chin and Naga Hills, over which many of you have fought since 1942, a hundred-mile-wide wilderness of razor-backed jungle-clad mountains up to 10,000 ft. in height. On the eastern frontier there is similar country, though much of the Shan plateau is rolling downland of great scenic beauty. Throughout the high country the climate is temperate, though it can be mighty cold at night, with hard frosts for some months of the year. The valley bottoms, more dangerous for malaria than any other parts of Burma, are hot and stuffy in the summer, and subject to cold, dank mists on winter nights and mornings.

In between these rough frontier regions, cupped in the gigantic horse-shoe of its watershed, lies the long rectangular plain of the Irrawaddy, with its main tributary, the Chindwin River, flowing along the foot of the western hills. The plain is very level; Myitkyina, for instance, away up at the northernmost railhead, is only 400 ft. above sea level. But many broken ranges of low hills, like the Pegu Yomas, lie dotted about to make the soldier's life an energetic one.

The nature of the country throughout the central plain depends on two factors, rainfall and irrigation. The former controls the jungle growth, the latter the type of cultivation and the density of rural population. Burma has a dry belt running east—west across its centre, with the middle of it near the 21st degree of Latitude. Here the annual rainfall is less than 30 inches, increasing gradually north and south of the middle line. In the far north and the far south there are heavy rain-belts, with annual falls up to and occasionally exceeding 200 inches.



Rice cultivation in the Shan States

Burma gets most of its rain between the middle of May and the end of October, during the South-west Monsoon, when the endless rain-clouds sweep in off the wastes of the southern oceans. The rest of the year is fairly dry, coolest at Christmas, and stoking up to infernal temperatures in April and early May. Dry-zone temperatures exceed 110 degrees in the shade, but this oven-like heat is more bearable than the 95-100 degree *maxima* of the humid, "greenhouse" heat of the wet belts.

When the rainfall is low you find teak and other deciduous forests, or thorn scrub, generally fairly thin and giving good visibility. But in the rain-belts there are evergreen rain-forest and bamboo and cane-brakes, with visibility rarely more than a few yards. Many of the timbers of the "dry" forests are extracted for sale, and so these forests are seamed with paths and logging tracks, in contrast to the dense wilderness of the rain-forest.

Irrigation is the key to most of the wet-paddy cultivation you will find all over Burma, each little field a shallow pan bounded by foot-high water-retaining walls called *kazin*. Paddy, or rice as we call it when husked, is the main crop and dearest to the Burmese heart. Where wet paddy cannot be grown the people cultivate small fields called *ya*, which are similar to the fields at home, cut out of the scrub.

On the whole, villages with permanent irrigated wet-paddy lands are richer than those without, and the settlements lie closer together because land so intensively cultivated can carry a heavier population. The open, **kazin*-

*It's worth remembering that *kazins* are often high and hard enough to damage tracked vehicles.

seamed terraces of minute fields that surround these settlements are bare and shimmering with heat in the dry season. In the wet monsoon they are green and lovely quagmires. In Lower Burma there are many thousands of square miles of these open paddy-fields, and when your turn comes to fight across them you may well yearn for the "good old days" under the cover of the shady jungle.

The densest populations are to be found down the lengths of the main rivers, the Irrawaddy, Chindwin, Sittang and Salween, with stretches of jungle, poor villages and *ya* cultivations between. This human distribution meant that from ancient times the waterways were the main communications of the country, while the people, brought up from childhood at the water's edge, are expert swimmers and canoeists almost to a man.

A word about the jungle, which badly needs debunking. You have many a hard mile of it in front of you on the way to Tokyo, and what you can learn in Burma will take you a long way across the Far East. Start learning the truth about it right away. For instance, wild animals are nothing to worry about. In peace-time many a wealthy traveller has paid hundreds of pounds to come out to Burma to shoot tiger, elephant, bison and their like. It needs a very efficient "bandobast," a good native hunter and sound wind and limb to take such a man near enough to big game animals to get a shot. So don't imagine you are going to spend your time fighting them off; you will be a lucky man if you ever see one at all, except perhaps an elephant.

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Then there are snakes, the mere mention of which makes many a strong man blench. Well, the fact is that there have been hardly any casualties from snake-bite in South East Asia Command. In Burma there is only one kind that will go out of its way to attack you, and that is the *hamadryad*, or King Cobra. Fortunately they are *very* uncommon. It grows to 15 feet or so and rears about a third of its length from the ground to strike, spreading its hood. If you see one, put a bullet in it at once. They have been killed with swagger canes, but it's not worth trying. Burmese women snake-charmers in the Mount Popa region will kiss a wild one on the nose for you at a price. *All other kinds of snake, except the Russell's viper, clear off at the mere sight and sound of man*, and your boots and anklets give you good protection anyway. But be sensible in your movements. Where possible use a torch at night, take a good look round before you choose a place to rest, keep your billets and slit trenches clear of rubbish. The same simple rules go for poisonous spiders, centipedes and scorpions. Don't go fingering the loose bark of a dead tree stump, you may find a nest of young scorpions under it. Look inside your boots, hat and gloves before you put them on, shake out tent flaps, tuck your mosquito curtain in as soon as you have laid out your bedroll, and above all, keep your surroundings clear of litter and rubbish that can give these creatures cover. It sounds a lot of trouble, but you will find it soon becomes a habit to go through these motions.

To those who will spare the necessary attention to them, the jungle and its occupants can be good campaigning

friends. Your movements are hidden from the enemy, and if your eyes and ears and reflexes are better trained than his you've got him cold, as the tribal guerrillas and Wingate's *Chindits* have proved many a hundred times. The birds and small animals will tell you if anything dangerous is about, and even what sort of danger threatens them. Monkeys, for instance, will follow a leopard or tiger through the trees overhead, teasing it and advertising its presence, but if man appears they fall silent and fade away. There are edible fruits, roots and shoots well worth knowing about, small hunting and snaring tricks that will bring you in fresh meat, home-made bamboo fish-traps that will make a steady catch, and a dozen other things that will help to make your life easier if you will spend your leisure learning. It is wise to learn to avoid irritant creepers and plants. Friendliness with the local population is the quickest way to knowledge.

The most important points about the country for you, as a soldier, to remember are these. Firstly, the whole of Burma, both hills and plains, is honeycombed with foot-paths, many of which are not marked on any maps. Some are inter-village tracks, others logging and jungle produce collecting tracks, some lead to charcoal burners' and sawyers' huts, and some to deserted cultivations, some are tiny paths used by game to reach water-holes or good grazing. *All can be used with deadly effect in the jungle war.* Secondly, it is almost always easier to travel along the ridge tops than the gully bottoms, and game trails often exist on the larger ridges. Thirdly, water is always

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scarce throughout the plains in the dry season, often it's a day's march from one sizeable water-hole to the next.

The way to get to know about paths and water-holes is through the people who live in the neighbourhood. It is just one more reason, and a vital reason, for getting on friendly terms with everyone. Many of the Japs' successes of 1942 were won by use of the little paths.

HOW MODERN BURMA WAS MADE

FOR TWO THOUSAND YEARS the history of Burma has been one of constant warfare and rebellion. Great racial migrations out of Tibet and Chinese Turkestan have flooded the country three times in historical memory. The Mon-Khmer or Talaing drove out the original inhabitants, only to fall victims themselves to the Burmese, who in turn were driven southwards by the Shans for many years before they gathered strength to rend their conquerors. Forces of the Tartar Khans have fought their way as far south as Pagan; Burmese and Shan armies have laid waste lands as widely separated as Manipur, Upper Assam and Siam. Plot and counter-plot kept internal wars raging. In comparatively late years smaller racial groups, like the Kachins, have been continuing this southward flow, and the hill areas are a hotch-potch of mixed tribes who were hunting each other and their neighbours in the plains for heads and slaves a bare 50 years ago.

The picture before the British Annexation was this—a small pocket of Talaings survived in the Tenasserim

district, the Burmese held the central plains; the Shans occupied the plateau east of the Irrawaddy and the fringe of country round the foothills of the northern and north-western hills, while the smaller hill tribes were pressing down the mountain ranges throughout the whole country, looking for fresh lands to conquer. Our arrival arrested further large-scale movement, and little change has occurred since.

The Burmese regard themselves as a martial race, and as late as the 1880's their monarchs still considered the Court of Ava to be the Hub of the Universe. This naïve belief was largely responsible for the wars between the British in India and the Burmese; for it coloured all the actions of the Burmese kings with an arrogance and intolerance that would not have existed had they had a wider knowledge of world affairs of the day. They were dangerous days for all small nations. Great Powers, far greater than Burma, were then questing the world for trading markets or colonial territories or both. It was the age of the great western expansion of the American settlements, of the treks of the Boers which were to flood all South Africa, of merchant adventurers quartering the oceans of the world.

In 1824 the First Burmese War was fought and Lower Burma annexed to British India. Some 60 years later the Third Burmese War brought about the fall of Mandalay and the Burmese Throne. King Thibaw, weakest of Burmese monarchs, was led away into captivity in India, together with the Queen whose advice had ruined him, Supayalat, surely one of the most bold and ruthless of

13. Specimen of Japanese
DEFENSE

**SPECIMEN OF JAPANESE
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women. Old people are alive to-day who knew Burma as an independent country.

From the Annexation things have moved swiftly. First we began opening up communications throughout the country by the building of the Burma Railways network, which not only carries trade goods to places as far north as Myitkyina, but has branch lines running eastward to Heho and Lashio in the Shan States, and westward to Prome, Myingyan, Monywa and other Irrawaddy river towns. Then came the motor roads, some duplicating the important strategic rail lines, others fanning out across country where trade could make them pay. On the Irrawaddy we added to the traditional river craft the steamers of the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company, which voyaged for almost a thousand miles up the Irrawaddy and Chindwin Rivers; the small ferry steamers and motor boats that plied across and up and down, handling traffic to local markets, and the ubiquitous Indian sampan. Many hundreds of these river craft now lie at the bottom, sunk by our aircraft.

The Japanese have extended and improved these communications for military purposes, and have completed a railway line from Rangoon to Bangkok, partly by the use of British prisoners of war. This line is now their main link between Burma and Japan, our air and naval power having reduced the sea traffic to Rangoon to a very small trickle.

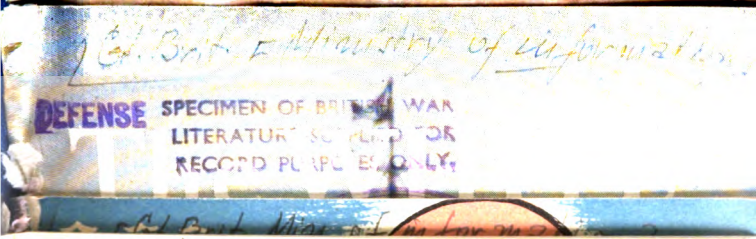
Politically, the country has jumped forward in 50 years a distance that Britain took several centuries to cover, the

gap between absolute monarchy and democratic government. In 1937, when Burma was separated from India, it obtained a Representative Government based on a broad franchise, including votes for literate women, and Burmese Ministers responsible to that Government were given control of Law and Order, Customs and Excise, Education, Public Health, Forests, Agriculture, and Public Works, including Communications and Irrigation. Indeed the Burmese Government had greater power than the Provincial Governments of India, for it possessed all the powers of the latter and also some of those reserved for the future Federal Government of India.

By 1942 the Public Services had been "Burmanised" to a very large degree, and the conduct of Burmese affairs, from the highest to the lowest levels, rested firmly in Burmese hands. Though the Governor had powers to veto Burmese legislation, they were rarely used.

All this was not achieved without some trouble and internal dispute. Serious riots occurred from time to time in recent years between Burmese and Indians and Burmese and Chinese. These arose out of economic competition of a kind that the Burmese feared, but negotiations between Burmese delegations and Indian and Chinese representatives had already gone a long way towards finding a solution in the days just before the Japanese invasion.

The Burmese are now very "politically minded," and, though still inexperienced in politics, a great number of political parties contested seats in the Government. The people have a strong nationalist sentiment and fairly clear



ideas of their national aims. The Japanese have done their best to exploit this combination of patriotic sentiment and political inexperience by granting Burma in 1943 an "Independence" which covers, behind the high-sounding façade of Dr. Ba Maw's Quisling Government, an iron political and economic rule by the invaders. We shall not know the effect of this spurious independence until we retake the country, but one thing is certain, it will not have made reorganization of a Government any easier. Burma has been promised Dominion Status at an early date, but war and occupation by the enemy may have fanned local differences to the fever heat we have experienced elsewhere. So you see there are plenty of political difficulties ahead for Burma, as for all other Axis-conquered territories, and the best thing you can do is to keep clear of all discussion of the subject.

A note about the hill areas, which are administered in a different way from Burma proper. These so-called "Scheduled Areas" are directly under the Governor of Burma, as the Representative of the British Crown. The inhabitants of the Scheduled Areas, which cover over 40 per cent. of Burma, are non-Burmese hill races, such as the Shans, Karens, Kachins, Chins, and Nagas. They are ruled by their traditional chiefs with the minimum of interference by British officials.

Burma's pre-war army was largely recruited among these hill races, especially the Kachins, Chins and Karens, and they have shown the utmost loyalty to the British cause during the past two years. They have fought with



Chindits from the hills

great distinction as regular soldiers with Wingate's *Chindits*, and as guerrillas on the wide mountain arc of India's Eastern Frontier.

Modern Burma can be summed up, then, by saying that there are two distinct political regions, the traditionally governed hills, and democratically governed plains already well on the way towards Dominion Status. Most of the trade and almost all industry is confined to the plains. Burma's External Affairs and Defence have all along been reserved to the Crown. We alone were responsible for

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protecting Burma from outside aggression. When the test came we were not able to do so. So it is up to us to put every ounce of effort we've got into driving out the enemy. The faster he goes the less will be the damage done to Burma. So keep him on the run.

BURMA'S ECONOMY

LACKING COAL and iron in sufficient quantities, Burma has no heavy industry. The country's main products are raw materials—paddy, timber, oil, rubber and minerals which include silver, lead, tin, wolfram. While these products are important enough in peace-time economy, they are vital to our present war effort. Burma's rice would have prevented the great Bengal famine of 1943, Burma's oil should be pouring into the Allied war machine instead of into that of the Japanese, Burma's timber should be going into Allied ships, mines, and railway tracks; Burma's rubber should be going into Allied tyres and Burma's minerals into Allied munitions.

These are good enough economic reasons for making a quick job of the Burma campaign.

Burma's secondary industries are connected with its raw products. They include rice-milling, timber-milling, oil-refining, rubber-processing, match manufacturing and furniture making, soap-making, tanning and manufacturing leather goods, cement-making, sugar-milling and silk-weaving. The first three are the most important, but none

of them competes with the agricultural industry in the numbers involved.

To the Burmese agriculture means growing paddy. Rice is the basic food of the country and the main export. In pre-war days India bought most of the surplus, but some of it came to Britain. The state of the rice market was always the main index of Burma's prosperity, and, in turn, of its ability to buy manufactured goods, for rice alone spread the profits of its production widely over a huge population. Subsidiary crops include peanuts, beans, peas, sesamum, wheat, millet, Indian corn, soya beans, sugar-cane and cotton. Much of the cultivation of these is concentrated in the Dry Zone, where rice will not do well without irrigation. Bullocks and buffaloes are kept for ploughing and carting. Watch out for those buffaloes; they're no respecters of uniforms and they don't like white men. Sowing, transplanting and reaping of paddy are all done by hand and it is very hard work while it lasts. But it only lasts for about six months out of the twelve and so the average Burman cultivator lives a fairly easy life.

A serious problem of absentee land-ownership had arisen in Lower Burma before the war, as a result of a combination of expensive agricultural capital, mostly loaned by Indians of the Chettyar caste, and thriftless mortgaging of land by the Burmese cultivators. Post-war plans are in hand to rectify this as far as possible, as it was one of the main sources of Indo-Burmese friction.

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Burma possesses one of the few Forest Departments in the world which runs at a profit, and it has enormous reserves of valuable hardwoods such as teak, *pyinkado* and *padauk*. Teak is used extensively in almost every British ship, the "Queen Mary" alone containing 1,000 tons of it. There must be at least 100,000 square miles of forest of all species in Burma and it is hoped that the post-war years will bring yet more profit to the country from the development of its timbers and the industries using them.

The Burmah Oil Company is world known, and its main wells are at Yenangyaung and Chauk, about half-way up the Irrawaddy from Rangoon to Mandalay. Other important wells exist and the industry is a flourishing one. The principal refineries were at Syriam, on the river below Rangoon. In 1942 we destroyed the oil installations, and have kept bombing them ever since, so it will be some time before we can get things going again.

Though Burma cannot compare with Malaya in this respect, there are a number of rubber plantations in the south, mainly in Tenasserim, while the *tung* plantations in the Shan States produce useful quantities of an oil essential for good varnish. Many of these plantations are native owned and managed.

But Burma's traditional claim to renown lay in precious stones. The famous "pigeon's blood" rubies found in Mogok commanded very high prices before synthetic stones ruined the market. Jade, most romantic of stones,

is "mined" in the river beds of the jade mines near Kamaing in the Kachin Hills. It is found in great rounded boulders several inches in diameter. A wide shallow groove is ground out of the brownish "skin" of the stone to show the colour beneath, and dealers buy on the strength of the texture and colour disclosed. It is a supreme gamble. Sometimes a stone bought for a few hundred rupees contains jade worth 100,000 rupees, sometimes it is almost valueless. Burma jade is found in many colours including white, red, mauve, and the priceless apple-green. Most of it is bought by Chinese merchants for re-sale in China after cutting and carving.

Gold can be washed in small quantities in almost every river, and sapphires and a large variety of semi-precious stones are found in many places.

The Burma Corporation's lead and silver mine at Bawdwin, near Lashio in the Northern Shan States, is the largest of its kind in the world, while in Southern Burma there are mines producing tin and wolfram.

A great economic potential untouched up to the present is hydro-electricity, of which great things are hoped in the future.

In all these sources of industrial wealth the Burmese have so far taken little share. British capital has financed most, and as the Burmese do not take kindly to steady employment, Indian labour has been imported in large numbers to get the work done. This is another of the country's difficult economic problems, for the standard of living is much higher in Burma than in India, and this

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importation of cheap labour cuts at the roots of the Burman's well-being. There is a lot to be said for the Burmese view-point. In the days when everyone had his own land a man and his family could live comfortably for a year on the produce of some six months' work. It was a leisured life, and dignified, but it's hard to make it fit into the twentieth century.

All of the country's industries have suffered as a result of the war and we shall have much hard work to do to get them going. Get them going we must if our plans to raise Burma's standard of living in the post-war world are to succeed. Burma's trade is part of world trade, and her prosperity will assist the prosperity of those countries, including Britain, from which she imports goods which she cannot herself produce. The Burma Government has far-reaching plans in hand to develop reciprocal trade with Britain and the Commonwealth.

MEET THE PEOPLE

Population : The 1941 population of Burma was about 17,000,000, of whom some 12,000,000 were Burmese, 3,000,000 non-Burmese hill races, and the remainder Indians, Chinese, and a small number of Anglo-Burmese and Europeans. All the hill races and 75 per cent. of the Burmese are agriculturists, a large proportion being small-holders who till their own fields, living in scattered hamlets over the whole vast width of the countryside. The



Shan village headman

alien minorities are concentrated in the big towns and industrial centres. Rangoon, though it is the capital city, was not noticeably Burmese. More than half the population was Indian and there were also thousands of Chinese and other foreigners. Were it not for the Shwe Dagon Pagoda, Queen of Buddhist Shrines, and a few similar religious edifices, Rangoon might well be taken for any modern Indian city.

Characteristics : Though they have that tendency towards violent crime that goes with the volatile tem-

perament, the Burmese are a very gay and laughter-loving people, butterfly-like in the brightness of their dress, courteous in their manners, and passionately addicted to play-going and gambling in all its forms. Soccer is as dear to the Burman heart as it is to ours, and very good footballers they make too. Playing without boots, which they very often do, they can send the ball rocketing with dazzling speed and accuracy. You may think them poor losers, for their games often end in brawls. But they in turn regard

us as irrational beings too repressed to voice the disappointment we must surely feel when we are beaten.

In the villages you will find the boys playing *chinlon*, a fascinating game played with a small ball made of woven cane. The players stand in a ring and try to keep the ball in the air as long as possible, tossing it to each other from instep, sole, knee, shoulder and head with uncanny control. It's a game worth learning to take around with you on your campaigns. Invented in the cramped jungle villages, it is an ideal way of getting exercise for body and eye in a restricted space, and you can soon learn to make your own cane balls.

Other Burmese sports include boxing, in which they use feet as well as hands, canoe-racing, and pony-racing. The last has led to great improvements in the local pony, a tough and game little animal. A Government Stud Farm at Pyawbwe did much to propagate good blood, especially in the Dry Zone. Rangoon has one of the finest racecourses in the East.

The Burmese theatre is a most flourishing institution. Theatrical companies, some local and some of national



A typical Burmese

fame, tour the countryside giving open-air performances, which may last anything up to a week, at villages large and small. These shows are called *pwe*, and no large festival would be complete without one. Unlike the hill peoples the village Burmese do not themselves dance. All dancers are professionals. The cast generally consists of the *minthami* (princess) who is the star, perhaps a male dancer or two, and certainly a couple of *lu-byet* or clowns, whose antics and flashing repartee keep the crowds laughing. Each touring party has a band consisting of at least five instruments, including what must be the "father of all swing saxes," the strident and laughable *hne*. The humorous back-chat is full-blooded and subtle, often taking the form of innocent sounding sentences which, with certain words transposed, become very much the opposite. Burmese audiences follow these difficult mental manoeuvres with swift appreciation, but a foreigner can very rarely think quickly enough.

The Burmese like their shows late. They generally start well after dark and go on till the first cocks are crowing for the dawn. Everyone sits around on mats, sheltered from the dew by a crazy structure of more mats and cloths stretched over an unstable framework of bamboo poles. The stage is lit by a garish petrol light or two, the audience sits in the dim light of smoky hurricane lamps, surrounded in the darkness by soft drink bars, peanut stalls and small teashops to which people drift and return in a constant stream. - There is no continuous plot in the show, so it doesn't matter if you are away for a while.



Burmese girls smoking cheroots

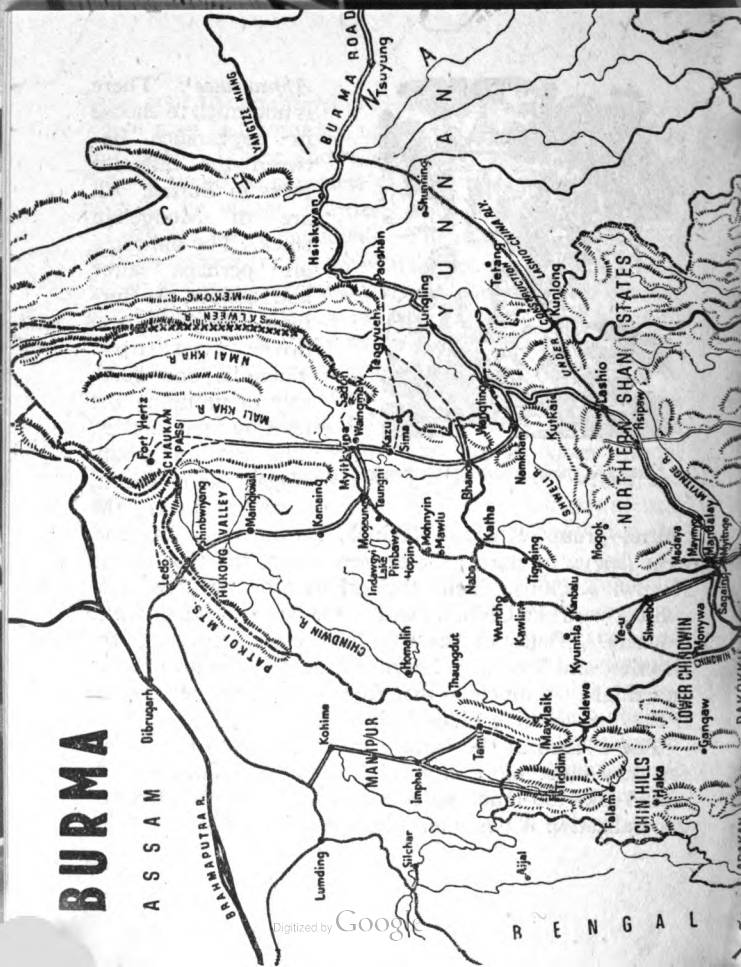
Appearance : There is not much to choose in appearance between the different races in Burma. All are of Mongolian stock. The hill races are perhaps fairer and stockier, the Burmese brighter and more vivacious. There is one quick way of grouping the men by their clothes. The western group, Nagas and Chins, wear loin cloths ; the

central group, Khakhu Kachins, Burmese and Karens, wear *longyis* or skirts ; the eastern group, the Bhamo and Hsenwi Kachins, Shans and others who have come in contact with the Chinese, wear wide baggy black or white trousers. Males of the Buddhist races, especially the Burmese and Shans, are heavily tattooed on the lower body and thighs, so much so that from a distance they look as if they are wearing blue-black tights.

The women of the various races are easy to tell apart for they cling more closely to their local fashions. It would take too much space to describe them all, but one generalization is possible. Hill women usually wear thick

BURMA

A S S A M

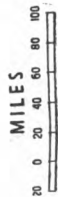


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B E N G A L

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Burmese, the plains Karen and the urban Shan women wear machine-made Lancashire cotton-print skirts or silk for Sunday best. Nothing could exceed the charm of a gathering of Burmese women on a festival day. Rustling silks of every hue, gossamer jackets, sleek black hair coiled high in glistening cylinders and set with scented flowers, gay parasols, *thanaka*-powdered faces and sparkling eyes make as lively a spectacle as you would see anywhere. Even the men-folk are scarcely less colourful.

Manners : Manners are more formal in Burma than with us, and people are taught to respect their elders, addressing them with special honorific titles. The Burmese often take off their shoes where we would remove our hats ; for instance, when entering religious buildings or private houses. Nowadays few Burmese expect Europeans to take off their shoes in their houses but you will notice outside most pagodas and shrines a notice "FOOT-WEARING PROHIBITED." It means just what you were thinking.

Burmese women have greater freedom than those of most other Eastern countries, and you will find them doing most of the market selling and running quite a number of small businesses. They are accustomed to mixing with men-folk, but not to being free with them.

Religion : Religious beliefs play a very important part in regulating the lives of the people. The Burmese, Shans,

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Pilgrims at prayer

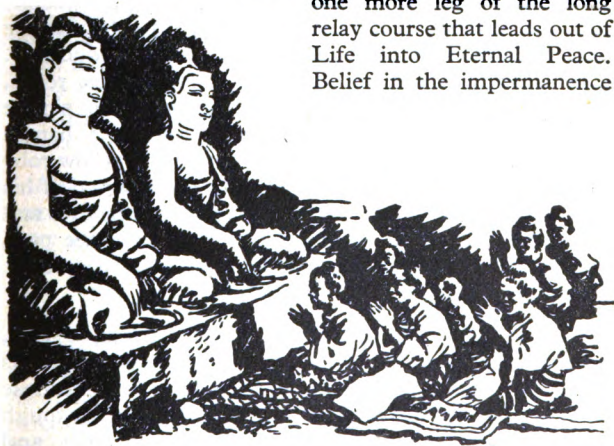
Palaungs and a few Southern Chins are Buddhist, the remaining hill races are Animists, with a small proportion of Christians, especially among the Karens. In dealing with Burma Christians remember that they have been taught to think like us, and to react in the same way to what we call good and evil. Because their conversion is recent, they take their religion very much more seriously than we do. They are always happy to have you go to their churches, and you will recognize many of their hymn tunes, though the words are strange. The Animists believe in spirits—the spirits of ancestors, of the trees and the mountains and rivers, of humans and animals, and of the earth and the sky. They worship these in many ways, by sacrifice of an animal, the dropping of a twig or leaf or a flower at sacred places, by formal and informal invocation. You need to be careful about cutting down large trees, particularly banyan trees, almost anywhere in Burma, but especially near Animist villages. The spirits like to live in big trees and most banyans are believed to house one. Don't monkey about with shrines, stakes with animal skulls on them and other odd things about the outskirts of villages ; you may be ruining a sacrifice or desecrating a grave. Of course, all these things will happen sometimes in war, and the people are as sensible as we are about it. It's what happens when the front line has passed on that matters most.

Buddhism, the principal religion of Burma, has in its teachings the key to much that will puzzle you about

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Burmese life. Buddhists regard the earthly life as a vale of woe, to be suffered many times before attaining heavenly peace. Nothing matters about matter—only the soul counts. Belief in the sanctity of life leads to a strong aversion to taking life in cold blood, one effect of which is hordes of mangy pariah dogs running about that we would think it a mercy to kill. If you can avoid it, never fire a shot at bird or beast near to a pagoda or monastery. Belief in the transmigration of souls means that a funeral is a cause for rejoicing, as another fortunate soul has finished one more leg of the long relay course that leads out of Life into Eternal Peace. Belief in the impermanence



Burmese women praying in the great Caves near Moulmein

of worldly things leads to the neglect of ancient religious monuments, to the crumbling ruins of pagodas and shrines that litter the whole surface of Burma.

But Buddhist Law enjoins the same sort of personal discipline as Christianity. Man shall not kill, nor steal, nor lie, nor commit adultery. You can take it for granted that everything that is a crime against Christian Law is also a crime against Buddhist Law and act accordingly towards the Burmese.

Buddhist monks occupy a privileged position in society. They are the spiritual guides and mentors of the people, and the teachers in the monastery schools at which the bulk of Burmese children receive their primary education. They lead an ascetic life. Dressed in their yellow robes, they go daily from door to door, begging their simple meals. They may not look upon women nor handle money. Every Burmese boy must put on the yellow robe of the Buddhist novice at least for a short period of his life. A minority of priests have taken part in politics and otherwise behaved in an unpriestly manner in the past, but the Burmese know this and are very sensitive about it. Better not discuss it.

Arts and Crafts : The Burmese are skilled artists, carvers, lacquer-makers and metal-workers. Burmese lacquer is not of the high quality finish of the Chinese or Japanese product, but it is of very light weight and extremely tough and durable. Carving is done in wood and ivory and an annual Arts and Crafts Exhibition kept standards

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improving in pre-war days. Water-colours were becoming popular, and many Burmese artists had reached a high degree of skill, particularly in the painting of the lovely river scenes at sunset and dawn, when sky and water merge in a riot of opalescent colour, that are so characteristic of the Burma landscape.

YOUR LIFE IN THE COUNTRY

WHETHER YOU enjoy yourself in Burma or get on your own and everyone else's nerves depends on the "know-how" of getting what you want painlessly. That is why there is a list of simple phrases at the end of the booklet. They won't teach you to speak Burmese well, but they will help you to get that chicken without wringing the owner's neck for it.

A number of other matters come into it. The war may have changed things a lot, but in the past the Burmese were not much given to bargaining. The price they asked for bazaar trifles was always as near as no matter to what they hoped to get. Experience will teach you, but don't start off with the idea that every Burmese is out to swindle you. It's a good thing to offer reasonable prices, and never go beyond them. Troops competing with each other for short supplies have only themselves to blame if they send prices soaring. There will be hardly any other competitors for Burma's saleable surpluses. Foreign trade will not get going till there are ships to spare, and the spurious

"currency" notes with which the Japanese have flooded Burma will have reduced the average Burman's buying power a lot. Your money is valuable and the way you use it will make a big difference to civil life in the country.

Don't buy up every single eatable thing for miles around ; after all, you get your rations. Other people have to live too, and though they may be too scared to refuse to sell, or tempted by high prices to sell more than they can spare, they won't be scared to grouse when their shoes pinch afterwards, and this only makes trouble for the units following you along.

Many villages are very short of water for both people and stock in the dry season, and short of firewood at all times. When you are near such places try to cut down your own requirements and leave enough for everyone. Let it be known that you are doing so ; your thoughtfulness will not be forgotten or wasted.

People who don't understand each other soon get flustered. Country folk think slowly and it's a good thing to put your questions simply and to speak quietly. It never pays to shout, and that goes for your interpreter too, if you have one. The jungle Burman will see you as an armed stranger. In the past he knew British troops as friendly, decent fellows, but for two years the Japanese have been trying to convince him that the opposite is true. Very often he will tell you what he thinks it will please you to hear, rather than a truth you may not like. You may ask, sweating hard, "Is so and so far from here?" and he will reply tactfully, "Oh no, it's just

round the next couple of bends."

It is probably still eight miles away, but he feels it will relieve your agony to think it's nearer. Place names are not always what the map calls them, many natural features having more than one name. Take it easy if you don't get the reply you hoped for and remember the



A Kachin tribesman

rustic back home who, damned to the eyes for his dullness, replied, "Oi may be a dom fule, but oi ain't lorst."

All over Burma groups of villages run bazaars for the sale of vegetables, fruit and other "perishable" goods. The bazaar is usually a daily one in big towns and once every five days in rural areas. Often two or three are held on alternate days within a few miles of each other. They usually start very early and are all over by midday. You must be quick off the mark to get the best. Most of the sellers are women.

If you are looking for presents to send home to your girl, Burmese silk, ivory and jade, lacquer and silverware, embroidered bags made by the hill tribes and any of the

numerous semi-precious stones are very acceptable. We don't know yet if the Japs have left any behind, but if they have it's the sort of thing you can buy without doing the locals any harm. All the above were cheap enough in peacetime. Take your time about buying. If everyone rushes for what is in the market any given day it will cost a fortune to buy a five-rupee zircon.

You may be pestered by fortune-tellers, if the Japs haven't killed them off for not foretelling your arrival. They are looking for suckers. See they don't find them in your ship or unit.

Though Buddhists are supposed to keep off alcohol there are liquor shops all over Burma which sell, in addition to foreign-manufactured beer and spirits (probably all Japanese by now) locally-made liquors like toddy wine and rice-spirit. These last are hard liquors; they make those not used to them fighting drunk, and have been known to blind and kill. It's best to keep off them altogether. You will see very few drunks in public places in Burma. Public opinion is definitely against it, and men who let themselves get out of control will do a lot of harm to the good name of your Service.

Burma is usually hot, and the Burmese spend a lot of time bathing every day. You will probably want to do the same. If you haven't got a pair of shorts to use as a bathing costume, keep away from wells and beaches frequented by the womenfolk. The Japanese soldiers deeply offended the whole Burmese nation by their habit of bathing and wandering about naked in public.

Currency : Burmese currency is the same as that used in India : rupees, annas, pice and pies. The normal commercial exchange value of a rupee is one shilling and sixpence. Sixteen annas go to the rupee, four pice to the anna, and twelve pies to the anna. The Japanese have abolished annas and pies and divided the rupee into 100 cents, as in Ceylon. Commonest denominations of currency notes issued are : Re. 1/-, Rs. 5/-, 10/-, 50/-, 100/-. A lakh of rupees is 100,000, written 1,00,000/-. A crore of rupees is 100 lakhs. Inflation has lowered the purchasing power of the rupee to a large extent.

Weights and Measures : Both Indian and Burmese weights are used in bazaar sales, owing to the fact that so many Indian petty shopkeepers used to trade in Burma. Those commonly used are :

BURMESE	INDIAN
<i>Beik-tha</i> (or viss) = 3.7 lb.	Maund = 82 lb.
<i>Kyat</i> = 1/100th of a <i>Beik-tha</i> .	<i>Seer</i> = 2 lb.
	<i>Tola</i> = $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

Useful Burmese measurements are :—

Lan = 1 fathom, or arm span from finger tip to finger tip.

Daung = 1 cubit, elbow to middle finger tip.

Twa = 1 span from thumb to little finger tip.

In using these don't forget the Burmese have smaller hands and shorter arms than we have. Our own measurements of inches, feet, yards, etc., are widely known.

Grain is sold in Burma by the basket (*din*). A standard basket of paddy weighs 46 lb., and of rice 72 lb. Baskets used in village sales vary in capacity from one district to another. It's a good thing to weigh a sample basketful before buying in bulk.

WATCH YOUR HEALTH

HERE IS the first fact for you to remember : In the early days of South East Asia Command FIVE men were laid off through sickness to every ONE who became a casualty by enemy action. Of course, the vast majority of the sickness cases were soon back on service again, but the figures will give you a good idea of the relative dangers of tropical disease and the Japanese enemy.

The commonest tropical diseases are transmitted by insects, by direct personal contact, by contaminated food and water, and through neglected cuts and abrasions in the skin.

Malaria and dengue fever are transmitted by the mosquito, sandfly fever by the sandfly, plague by the bite of rat-fleas, and relapsing fever and typhus by lice. The simplest rule in all these cases is DON'T GET BITTEN. Occasions will arise in war when you must take chances, but these should be kept to a minimum. Cover your arms and legs at night, use your mosquito cream and sleep under a net. Inspect yourself for lice and take action

incidence at well above 50 per cent. over the whole population. Things are not likely to have improved as a result of Japanese occupation, and if you must get knocked out by the enemy, you would find a bullet quicker and cleaner.

In spite of the prevalence of disease in the tropics, there is no need for you to get ill at all if you drill yourself in the precautions advised. Modern science has added many new anti-disease disinfectants and devices to our protective "armoury." Anti-malaria and other preventive measures are strictly applied in all camps, and disease is being brought under control very rapidly.



*Jeeps crossing the upper reaches
of the Chindwin River*

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LIST OF DO'S AND DON'TS

1. The Burmese peoples are our friends. Most of the hill peoples have been engaged in active guerrilla warfare against the Japs since 1942, and many thousands of plains-people have given us help at the risk of their lives. Show them that you appreciate what they have done.

2. As a nation the Burmese are more polite than we are. Try to remember the special terms of respect for elderly people and local officials.

3. Always work through the local officials, especially the headmen in Burmese villages and the chiefs in hill villages. They are "big shots" in their own little world, and can smooth your way a lot.

4. Treat Burmese women with great respect. They live a much freer life than most Eastern women, but their smile doesn't mean they want to go to bed with you.

5. Remember that a laugh will take you a long way farther than a frown.

6. Wear your clothing loose if you want to avoid heat-stroke (this is not to say that you should appear sloppily dressed when out of the battle area).

7. Doctor all cuts and scratches at once.

8. Take extra salt in your drinking water.

9. The Japanese made enormous capital out of the

relatively small fifth column they used in 1942. Don't help them now by believing every Burmese is against us.

10. Don't get mixed up with political or religious discussions with the Burmese. They have plenty of trouble for themselves without our butting in.

11. Don't laugh at what you see at festivals. Very often there is a religious significance in these and your derision will give deep offence.

12. Don't gamble with the Burmese.

13. Don't get drawn into arguments about the relative merits of United Nations forces operating on the Burma front.

14. Don't let yourself get bitten by bugs and mosquitoes more than you can help. Follow the precautionary drill.

15. Don't drink unsterilized water.

16. Don't eat native foods sold in the bazaars.

17. Don't eat raw vegetables.

18. Don't eat raw fruit unless it's the sort that you can peel.

19. Don't meddle with pagodas and shrines. Even though they are allowed to fall in ruin they are still held in veneration.

20. Don't shoot animals or birds near sacred places.

21. Don't photograph people without asking their permission, and don't start a racket by paying for permission.

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A Naga youth

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

THE SPELLING adopted in these phrases is based on that in the pamphlet "Rubbing along in Burmese" recently published by G.H.Q. Simla, and is as nearly as possible phonetic.

Making yourself understood depends on tone, which can only be learned by listening to a Burman, and cannot be explained in writing. A' at the beginning of a word . . . or ' elsewhere represents the very short "a" in "maroon", and "alike".

A . . . has the long sound of "father".

UT . . . rhymes with " but ".

UN . . . rhymes with " bun ".

Y . . . is always a consonant, never a vowel, and after another consonant is combined with it, e.g.,

PYU is the same as English " pew " ;

MYU is the same as English " mew ".

HL . . . try to aspirate the " l ", much as in the Welsh " ll " of " Llandudno ".

OW . . . as in English " cow ".

O . . . is always long, as in " go ".

OAN . . . as in English " moan ".

ONE . . . as in English " bone ".

Remember that final consonants in Burmese are only half-pronounced.

I. Words and Phrases in General use

Bring help LOO KAW-BA (lit., Call people)

Bring a doctor SAY-S'YA KAW-BA

Please show me PYA-BA

You will be rewarded SOO NGWAY PAY-MÈ

I am your friend MAY-SWAY PYIT-BA-DÈ

Do you understand ?	NA-LÈ TH'-LA
Yes*	HOKE-DÈ
No*	M' HOKE BOO
I don't understand	NA M'-LÈ BOO
Speak slowly	PYAY-BYAY PYAW-BA
Say it again	TAT PYAW-BA-OAN
Look out !	TH'-DEE TA
Hurry up	MYUN-MYUN LOKE-BA
Wait here	DEE-MA SOWNG-NAY-BA
Come here	DEE-GO LA-GÈ-BA
What is your name ?	KIM-B'YA NA-MÈ B'-THOO-LÈ
What do you want ?	BA LO-JIN TH'-LÈ
Please	Put " BA " after the verb
Thank you	JAY-ZOO-BÈ
Good day	MA-È-LA (are you well ?)
Goodbye	THWA-DAW-MÈ

*NOTE : Instead of saying " Yes " or " No " the Burman often repeats the word of the question, e.g ,

Q. NA-LÈ TH'-LA . . . Do you understand ?

A. NA-LÈ-DÈ I understand.

NA M'-LÈ BOO . . . I do not understand.

2. Words in General use

Soldier	SIT-THA
Sailor	THIM-BAW-THA
Airman	LAY-DUT-THA
Officer	SIT-BO
Police officer	P'-LAKE

Woman	MANE-MA
Child	K'-LAY
Headman	TH'-JEE
Englishman	ING-G' LAKE
Chinese	T'-YOKE
Burmese	B'-MA
Japanese	J'-PUN
Town	MYO
Village	Y'WA
Temple	P'-YA
Camp	S'-KUN
Car	MAW-TAW-KA
Tank	TANK-KA
Boat	HLAY
Aircraft	LAY-YIN-BYUN
Airfield	LAY-YIN-BYUN-KWIN
Rifle	TH'-NUT
Machine-gun	SET-TH'-NUT
Field	LÈ (Rice-field)-YA (dry field)
Ground	MYAY
Forest	TAW
Hill	TOWNG
Lake	IN
River.	MYIT
Sea	PIN-LÉ
Rain	MO (to rain, MO-Y'WA-DÈ)
Wind	LAY
Cloud	MO-TANE

Sun	NAY
Moon	LA
Star	JEE
This	DEE
That	HO
Those	HO-DO
Who	B'-THOO
Which	BÈ-DIN
What	BA
When	BÈ-DAW
Where	BÈ-MA
Why	BA-PY'-LO
Here	DEE-MA
There	HO-MA
Above	A'-PAW-MA
Below	OWK-MA
Behind	A' NOWK
In front	A' SHAY
Good—bad	KOWNG-DÈ—SO-DÈ or M'KOWNG-BOO
Empty—full.	LOOT-DÈ (oo short as in "foot") —PYEE-DÈ
Large—small	JEE-DÈ—NGÈ-DÈ
Long—short	SHAY-DÈ—TO-DÈ
Hot—cold	POO-DÈ or NWAY-DÈ—AY-DÈ
Deep—shallow	NET-DÈ—TANE-DÈ
Old—new	HOWNG-DÈ—THIT-DÈ
Clean—dirty	THUN-SHIN-DÈ—NYIT-PUT- DÈ

Wet—dry	SO-DÈ—CHOWK-DÈ
Sick—well	M' MA-BOO—MA-DÈ
Near—far	NEE-DÈ—WAY-DÈ
Tired	MAW-DÈ

3. *Domestic Words*

House	ANE
Bed	K'-DIN
Table	S'-BWÈ
Chair	KUL-L'-TINE
Mosquito-net	CHIN-DOWNG
Door	T'-GA
Floor.	JUN-BYIN
Kitchen	MEE-BO
Stairs	HLAY-GA
Bath (tub)	YAY-JO-THUM-BONE
Store (room)	S'-TAW-GUN
Blankets	SOWNG
Sheets	AKE-YA-KIN
Soap	SUP-PYA
Towel	MYEN-N'-THOKE P'-WA
Light (lamp)	MEE-ANE
Box	TIT-TA
Pen	MIN-DUN
Ink	MIN
Book	SA-OKE
Tailor	A'-WOOT-CHOKE-TH'-MA

(oo short as in foot)

Porter	KOOLEE
Barber	S'-BIN-GAIK
Laundryman	DOBEE
Wood (to burn)	TIN
Fire	MEE

4. *Eating and Drinking*

To eat	SA-DÈ
To drink	THOWK-DÈ
Food	SA-S'-YA
Bread	POWNG-MOAN
Butter	TAW-BUT
Egg	CHET-OO
Meat	A'-MÈ-THA
Rice (in the ear)	S'-BA
Rice (cooked)	T'MIN
Rice (uncooked)	SUN
Vegetables	HIN-THEE-HIN-YUET
Fruit	THIT-THEE
Lime (fruit)	THUM-B'YA-THEE
Salt	SA
Sugar	TH'-JA
Milk	NWA-NO
Tea	LEPPÈ-YAY
Water	YAY
Beer	BYIT
Ice	YAY-GÈ
Knife	DA

Glass	PUN-GWET
Plate }	P'-GUN-BYA
Saucer }	
Bottle	P'-LIN
Hungry	SA-JIN-DÈ (I want to eat)
Thirsty	THOWK-JIN-DÈ (I want to drink)
I want	LO-JIN-DÈ
Bring two cups of tea .	LEPPÈ-YAY N'-KWET YOO- GÈ-BA
Give us dinner quickly.	SA-S'-YA MYUN-MYUN-PAY- BA

5. *Shopping*

Market	ZAY
Shop	SINE
Shopkeeper	SINE-THÈ
Some	T'-CHO
How much	B'-LOWK
How many	BÈ-NÈ-KOO
Expensive	A'-PO JEE-DÈ
Cheap	PAW-DÈ
Large	A'-JEE
Small	A'-NGÈ
Show me some (shoes).	(P' NUT) PYA-BA
What is the price . . .	A'-PO B'-LOWK-LÈ

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That is too expensive . . .	A'-PO MYA-LOON-DÈ (oo short as in foot)
I want the best . . .	A'-KOWNG-SOAN LO-JIN-DÈ
Hotel	HAW-TÈ (the English word)
Cinema	CINEMA (as in English)
English newspapers . . .	ING-G'-LAKE TH'-DIN-ZA
English bookshops . . .	ING-G'-LAKE SA-OKE-SINE
Post office	SA-DIKE

Cloth Shops

Cloth	A'-TÈ
Shirt	SHUT-ANE-JEE
Trousers	BOWNG-BEE
Silk	PO
Real silk	PO-SIT
Thread	UT-JEE
Needle	UT
Socks	CHEE-AKE
Shoes	P'-NUT

6. *Telling the Time*

What time is it ? . . .	BÈ-NÈ NAYEE TO-BEE-LÈ
Four o'clock	LAY NA-YEE TO-BEE
Quarter to . . . (four) .	(THONE) NA-YEE LAY-SÈ- NGA MINNIT (i.e., 3 hrs. 45 mins.)

Quarter past . . . (four) .	(LAY) NA-YEE SÈ-NGA MINNIT
Half past . . . (four) .	(LAY) NA-YEE GWÈ
At what time (does) .	BÈ A'-CHANE . . .
For how long	B'-LOWK JA-M'-LÈ
How long ago	B'-LOWK JA-B'-LÈ
Wait one hour	T'-NAYEE SOWK-BA
Will be here in two hours	NOWK N'-NAYEE LA-MÈ

Days of the week :

Sunday	T'-NIN-G'-NWAY
Monday	T'NIN-LA
Tuesday	IN-GA
Wednesday	BO-D'-HOO
Thursday	JA-TH'-P'-DAY
Friday	THOWK-JA
Saturday	S'-NAY
Morning	M'-NET
Evening	NYA-NAY
Day	NAY (12 hrs.) or YET (24 hrs.)
Day before yesterday .	T'-MYUN-NAY
Yesterday	M'-NAY-GA
Day after tomorrow .	TH'-BEKKA
Tomorrow	NEP-PUN
Week	T'-BUT
Month	LA

7. Numbers

In Burmese you do not say one, two, three, etc., simply as we do in English. You have to use an extra word which describes the particular things you are enumerating. You don't say "Three men" as in English, but "men—three human beings", or "horses—four animals", or "carts—six things".

There are many of these descriptive words, but you can get along with knowing three :

YOWK	for human beings. LOO T'-YOWK : one man. SIT-THA LAY YOWK : four soldiers.
GOWNG	for animals. N'WA N'-GOWNG : two oxen. CHET CHOWK GOWNG : six chickens.
KOO	for everything else. HLÈ SHIT KOO : eight carts. HLAY THONE KOO : three boats. LAY-MAW-THEE KO GOO : nine oranges.

Here are the simple numbers : 1 : T'- ; 2 : N'- ; 3 : THONE ; 4 : LAY ; 5 : NGA ; 6 : CHOWK ; 7 : K'NIT ; 8 : SHIT ; 9 : KO ; 10 : T'SÈ ; 11 : SÈ-T'- ; 12 : SÈ-N'- ; 13 : SÈ-THONE ; 14 : SÈ-LAY ; 15 : SÈ-NGA ; etc. 20 : N'SÈ ; 30 : THONE-ZÈ ; 40 : LAY-ZÈ ; etc. 100 : T'YA ; 200 : N'YA ; 300 : THONE-YA ; 400 : LAY-YA ; etc. 1000 : T'-TOWNG ; 2000 : N'TOWNG. Remember : SÈ means ten, YA hundred, TOWNG thousand.
 $\frac{1}{4}$: T'-ZAKE ; $\frac{1}{2}$: T'-WET.

8. Colours

Colour	A'-YOWNG
White	A'-PYOO
Red	A'-NEE
Blue	A'-PYA
Green	A'-SANE
Yellow	A'-WA
Brown	A'-NYO
Black	A'-NET
Light	KUT-PYOO-BYOO (whitish)
Dark	KUT-MÈ-MÈ (blackish)

9. Animals

Animal	A'-KOWNG
Bird	NGET
Duck.	WOON-BÈ (oo short as in foot)
Cow	NWA
Goat	SAKE
Fish	NGA
Chicken	JET
Horse	MYIN
Donkey	MYEE
Sheep	THO
Pig	WET
Mule	LA
Mosquito	CHIN
Snake	MWAY
Scorpion.	KIN-MEE-GOWNG

10. Travelling

Which is the way (to (MANDALAY-GO) BÈ-LUN-LÈ
Mandalay)

How far is (Rangoon) . (RANGOON) B'-LOWK WAY-
TH'-LÈ

I am lost LUN PYOWK-DÈ

I have come from GA LA-DÈ

Follow me LIKE-LA-BA

Where is BÈ-MA-LÈ

How can I get there? . B'-LO THWA-YA-TH'-LÈ

Take me to GO KAW-THWA-BA

Send for a car . . . MAW-TAW-KA KAW-LIKE-BA

Drive to (Lashio) . . (LASHIO)-GO MAUNG-BA

Stop SIKE-BA

Go THWA-BA

Slowly PYAY-BYAY

Quickly MYUN-MYUN

Turn right NYA-BET

Turn left BÈ-BET

Straight ahead . . . SHAY TÈ-DÈ

Drive carefully . . . TH'-DEE TA MOWNG-BA

Hurry up MYUN-MYUN LOKE-BA

Mile MINE

Bearer or Carrier . . TUN-SOWNG—MÈ-LOO

Bamboo WA

Track (footpath) . . LUN-G'-LAY

Train MEE-Y'-TA

Taxi TAXI-Y'-TA

Bus BUS-KA



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DEFENSE

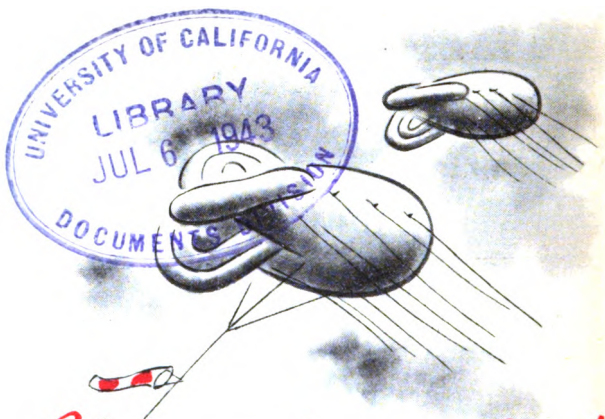
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THE WHITE

2 G.L. Brit. Min. of Information



Welcome!



You are about to land

at a British port—many of you for the first time. If you expect white cliffs and thatched cottages you will be disappointed. It will be like most other ports in the world—busy, dingy and, if the day is grey, probably a little depressing. The real England—the England of placid villages and sleepy towns—lies behind it. So do the Welsh mountains and the Scottish moors. The people will be very glad to see you, but their enthusiasm is usually of a rather shy sort and you may not be aware, at first, of the warm friendliness they feel towards you.

It is now twenty-five years since your fathers came to these

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shores on their way to France. We remember them well as they swung down the street which led from the boat to Knotty Ash Camp. The band played "Over There," the men marched with solemn determination although their lips moved to the words of the song. They were conscious, as we were conscious, of the dramatic moment. For some of us they were the first Americans we had ever seen and we were a little disappointed that they were not wearing ten-gallon hats and cowboy pants. That was in the days of the Wild West film. We know a great deal more about you to-day—probably more than you know about us. Most of the films we see are made in Hollywood. Many of the magazines we read are household names to you. You have a glamorous background for the British people.

A word or two about conditions here. Nearly four years of war have made us pretty realistic in our outlook. The gayer side of British life has been subordinated to the grim business of war. Nearly everybody who is physically able is doing a war job of some sort. Millions of people spend their spare time after work with the Home Guard, or in some form of Civil Defence. The streets are black at night and it is very difficult for a stranger to find his way about. Food is plentiful, up to a point, but there are few luxuries. We have made this island into a fortress and it is important that the broad outline of the life of the population should fit into this conception. Cinemas and theatres are open, of course, and indeed they

flourish, but they open early and close early. You may find some of our restrictions irksome, we find them so ourselves, but we understand, as you will understand, that the shape of our lives must be altered to fit our changed conditions, and we accept this change without too much exercise of the Englishman's right to complain. If our trains are sometimes delayed, if there are few porters in the darkened station, or the coaches are not as clean as they might be, we shrug our shoulders and use a formula which has saved our temper in the most exasperating circumstances: "There's a war on." You will hear the phrase until you're sick of it. We are. But it helps.

Some of our ways of doing things here may strike you as cockeyed. Maybe we don't know any better or maybe we just like them cockeyed. For example, the British people make their coffee a different way, because they like it that way—or so they say. One thing is certain—it's not the American way. Anyway, we don't drink much coffee. And we bet you can't make tea as well as we make it. If you are interested in soft drinks you'll find we have different ideas on that subject too. It's not much use asking for a nut-milk-chocolate-cream-fudge sundae with raspberry flavouring, topped off with walnuts. The only part of that one you are likely to get is the raspberry. There are other drinks, however, if you are interested, although the supplies are on the short side. Incidentally, the word "highball" doesn't mean much in this

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country, but the word "whisky" means plenty (and costs plenty, too).

You ought to know about British beer if you don't already. It divides itself into three types: "mild," "bitter" and "bottled." Mild beer and bitter beer are sold on draught—pulled up by hand from the beer engines. Mild is dark in colour, bitter is a tawny red, and is definitely an acquired taste. After you've been here a short time, you'll get to like bitter. We've been here all our lives and we've grown quite fond of it. There is little more to be said except that we are very glad to see you, very glad to have you fighting alongside us, very hopeful that you will get to know us and that we will get to know you, and very certain that we will come out, in the end, on top.



AIR RAIDS

IF the sirens go, and you are in the streets, take cover. Quite a few English people have learned that it isn't very smart to stand in the street when the bombs and shrapnel start falling. There's usually an air-raid warden or policeman round about who will tell you what to do. Take his advice—he's probably had experience.

Another thing—don't shine a naked light or a flashlight—it's an offence in this country. If you have a flashlight, cover the bulb with a couple of thicknesses of white tissue paper.

DOCUMENTS OF IDENTITY AND SHORE LEAVE

IF you are a merchant seaman and your officers grant you shore leave while your ship is in a U.K. port, you will require a *TEMPORARY SHORE-LEAVE PASS* issued by the British Immigration officer.

This official will visit your ship at the earliest possible moment, while you are in port, and after examining your papers will issue this Pass, if leave is granted by your officers. You may be asked to show this document when you go ashore. If you are, try and force a smile—but make sure the man who asks you is authorised to do it. If it is necessary, through illness or any other reason, for you to apply for a discharge in the

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United Kingdom, you must get a written request from the master of your ship and present it with your passport or other document of identity at the local office of the British Immigration Service. In smaller ports, where there is no office of this Service, the officers of the British Customs and Excise will deal with your case and give you every assistance.

If you require medical treatment ashore while your ship is lying in a U.K. port, the Immigration Officer will be glad to give you all the information concerning the facilities available locally. Incidentally, when you go ashore, leave your passport and seaman's papers on board. Your shore leave pass is sufficient. Loss of these papers may mean that you spend the rest of this war and part of the next, trying to prove you are who you say you are, so don't take any chances.

FIRE GUARDS

ALL merchant seamen have to take a turn on fire guard while their ship is in a British port. Merchant seamen on ships lying in our ports are not required to take any part in the ordinary fire-watching duties ashore, but may be required to do fire-watching duty for the protection of their ships. Arrangements for this will be made by the Naval authorities at the port at which your ship is lying. Your Captain will tell you when you are required.

WATCH THE TRAFFIC!

WE drive on the left of the road. You drive on the right. You may think this won't affect you unless you drive a car, but it does. When you cross a road, for example, you've got to look *right* and then *left*. When you call a taxi try to do it from the *left* side of the road and don't try to get in the cab from the right-hand side.

CAMERAS

CAMERAS may seem to you innocent things, but they are not to us. In the interests of security, cameras may not be carried in certain places, and these are almost certain to include the port at which you arrive. Since the beginning of the war it is forbidden to take photographs of lots of places and things, so you had better ask the advice of the police before you try to use your camera. In fact, if you take our advice you won't try to take a camera ashore at all, but will content yourself with buying photographs.

CANTEENS

you will find Navy, Army and Air Force Canteens in nearly

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all the ports of the United Kingdom. They are known as N.A.A.F.I. for short. Provided you have appropriate identity papers, these canteens are open to you, as are all Service Canteens operated by voluntary societies in ports and railway stations.

Some of these canteens are small and sometimes over crowded. There may be a shortage of cigarettes in these canteens (in other words — maybe if you're lucky you'll be able to buy cigarettes). Don't blame the helpers, who are frequently voluntary workers and doing their best.



FOOD AND CLOTHING RESTRICTIONS

FOOD is adequate for all reasonable people, although pressure on shipping space has made it necessary to cut down individual supplies. Rationing has been introduced for meat, bacon, eggs, butter, margarine, cooking fats, cheese, sugar, jam, milk, tea, onions, canned fruit (the consumption of oranges is practically limited to children), and most dried and canned food—to put everybody on the same level. It is not, at present, necessary for you to have food coupons to get meals in restaurants. Recently clothing has also been rationed, but merchant seamen may obtain coupons from Mercantile Marine Offices.

(See page 15.) Any number of people, official and unofficial, will be eager to tell you how to go about this rationing business, but unless you are ashore more than five days it need not concern you.

CURRENCY

ONE of our quaint English customs is to make the currency as difficult as possible for everybody, including ourselves. You can take it roughly that five shillings (better known as five bob) are equivalent to a dollar. Watch the half crown and the two shilling piece—they're very similar in size and design, but the half crown is worth 10 cents more. Various wartime measures have been introduced in this country relating to foreign currency, so please don't try to exchange money except through your own officials or a British bank. Here's a rough guide to the values.

<i>Coin</i>	<i>Slang Name</i>	<i>Metal</i>	<i>Value</i>
Half penny	Copper	copper	1 cent
Penny		copper	2 cents
Three pence (Threepenny bit)		silver or twelve-cornered brass	5 cents
Sixpence	Tanner	silver	10 cents
Shilling	Bob	silver	20 cents
Two shilling piece (Florin)		silver	40 cents
Half crown	Half-dollar	silver	50 cents
Ten shillings	Ten bob	paper (purple)	2 dollars
Pound	Quid	paper (blue & brown)	4 dollars



HALF PENNY



SIXPENCE



PENNY



SHILLING



TWO SHILLING PIECE



THREE PENCE (Silver)



THREE PENCE (Brass)



HALF CROWN

IN the early days of the war the enemy looted British paper money from occupied territories and planted it on people overseas. The influx of this paper money into Britain would therefore tend to disrupt our financial economy and thus serve Hitler's purpose. For this reason, you are not allowed to bring more than £10 in bills into the country.* This is possibly just as hard for you to understand as it is for us to explain, but you no doubt get the general idea. For the same reason, nobody is allowed to take more than £10 out of the country, and you should get rid of your British paper money before you leave. This doesn't mean that you need to spend it. You can turn it over to the Captain of your ship *before* you sail and have him credit you with the value in U.S. currency. Any British Bank will help you if you prefer it that way.

The English symbols "£ s. d." may have puzzled you on occasion, and rather than have you spoil your first trip to England by trying to work out the explanation, here it is:—

£ stands for the Latin word *Libra*, meaning a pound. The two lines distinguish it from an ordinary L, as they do in your own dollar symbol; "s" stands for shilling; "d" stands for pence and comes from the Latin "*Denarius*," an ancient Roman coin.

** You can bring larger sums than £10 into Britain if you do the transaction through a Bank. Any Banker will be pleased to advise you.*

MAIL RATES TO U.S.A.

AIR MAIL	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	1s. 3d.
						(and 1s. 3d. for each subsequent half-ounce).
SURFACE MAIL	...	1 oz. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
						(and 1d. for each subsequent ounce).

INFORMATION TO THE ENEMY

ONE of the enemy's chief sources of information is the soldier or sailor himself. A few odd words to a casual acquaintance in a bar (or in a café or a church or a bus) may fill the blank in an enemy report. The man who talks about his unit in public is risking his friends' lives and his own. Leakage of information is a serious problem. Keep quiet about yourself and about your unit or ship.

AMERICAN CONSULATES

YOUR first contact will doubtless be with your own Consul, and, of course, he will give you all the help he can. Here is a list of addresses in the principal towns.

TOWN	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NO.
BELFAST	1, Donegall Square South	BELFAST 21858
BIRMINGHAM	Neville House, Water- loo Street	MIDLAND 2582
BRISTOL	18, Baldwin Street	BRISTOL 25027
BRADFORD	Britannia House, Leeds Road	BRADFORD 1275
CARDIFF	Royal Chambers, Park Place	CARDIFF 4081
EDINBURGH	71, George Street	EDINBURGH 24606
GLASGOW	55, West Regent Street	DOUGLAS 3216
LIVERPOOL	Cunard Buildings, Pier Head	CITY 66
LONDON	1, Grosvenor Square, S.W.1	GROSVENOR 4111
MANCHESTER	Arkwright House, Parsonage Gardens	DEANSGATE 4187
NEWCASTLE-ON- TYNE	The Newe House, 10 & 12, Pilgrim Street	NEWCASTLE 23591
PLYMOUTH	1, The Crescent	PLYMOUTH 5063

DEFENCE SPECIMEN OF SEAMAN
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The following is of special interest to American Merchant Seamen :
SUPERINTENDENTS OF MERCANTILE MARINE OFFICES
AND IMMIGRATION OFFICES

AMERICAN merchant seamen will find that the Superintendents of the Mercantile Marine Offices will be a ready source of information on all matters concerning them and about which it is not necessary to trouble their Consul. There are offices at all ports and their addresses are well known to people in the dock area.

TOWN	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NO.	
CARDIFF	Bute Docks	CARDIFF	8380
GLASGOW	4-12, James Watt Street	CENTRAL	7166
LIVERPOOL	Cornhill, Liverpool 1	ROYAL	4747
LONDON	Dock Street, London, E.1	ROYAL	1978-9
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	Westgate Road	NEWCASTLE	22216
BELFAST	Custom House	BELFAST	22678
BRISTOL	Old Library, King Street	BRISTOL	22933
LEITH	Custom House, Leith, Edinburgh	LEITH	35809

**THE ENGLISH SOMETIMES
HAVE A DIFFERENT WORD FOR IT**

<i>American</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>American</i>	<i>English</i>
APARTMENT	Flat	FENDER (AUTO)	Wing or Mud-guard
AUTOMOBILE	Car	GASOLINE	Petrol
BATHTUB	Bath	HIGHBALL	Whisky and Soda or Ginger Ale
BISCUIT	Scone (or Teacake)	HUNTING	Shooting
BOOT	Riding Boot (Wellington)	HOOD (AUTO)	Bonnet
HIGH SHOE	Boot	SALOON	Pub
LOW SHOE	Shoe	UNDERSHIRT	Vest or Singlet
CANDY	Sweets	UNDERPANTS OR SHORTS	Pants
COOKIE	Biscuit	PANTS	Trousers
LETTER-BOX	Pillar-box	DRUG-STORE	Chemist
WRENCH	Spanner	SIDEWALK	Pavement
SPIGOT (OR FAUCET)	Tap	DEPOT	Station
SUSPENDERS	Braces	FREIGHT TRAIN	Goods Train
GARTERS	Suspenders	FREIGHT CAR	Truck
WATER-HEATER	Geyser	TRUCK	Lorry
WINDOW-SHADE	Blind	SUBWAY	Tube or Underground
CHECKERS	Draughts		
ELEVATOR	Lift		
STREET CAR	Tram		



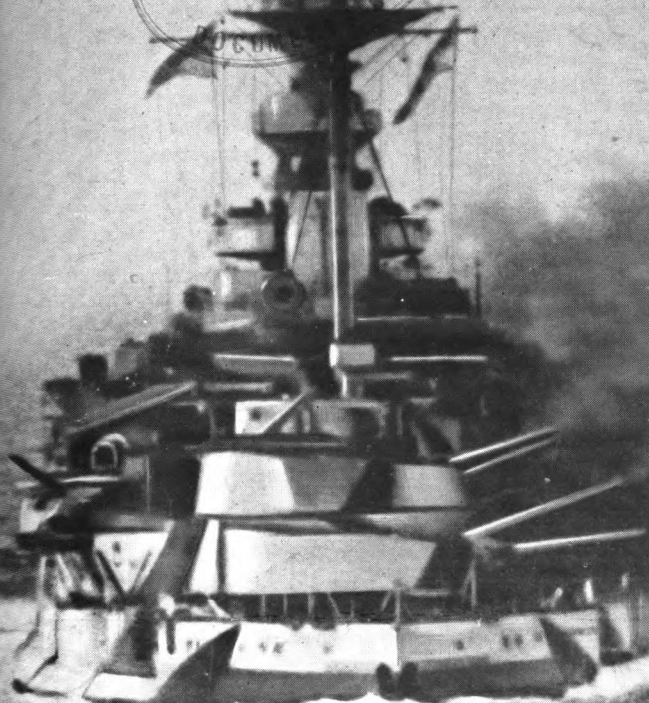
[This booklet is issued to all American soldiers, sailors, airmen and merchant seamen with the compliments of the British Government.]

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DEFENSE SPECIMEN OF BRITISH WAR
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The WHITE

Ensign





Over five million tons of enemy merchant shipping sunk or damaged.

UNCEASINGLY, DAY AND NIGHT, IN STORMY seas or calm, under clear skies or in dense fog, the ships of the Royal Navy continuously cut their difficult, hazardous passage across the oceans.

Relentless, they force a way through ice and snow, taking the Arctic route to reinforce Russia ; braving constant enemy air and submarine attack, their convoys pass through the narrow waters of the English Channel. Charging into the very teeth of the worst perils they supply Malta . . . patiently, insistently they pursue the long course to reach South Africa with vital supplies of planes, army lorries, machinery and other goods, and Australia with generating plant, tanks and machine tools. Theirs also is the job of escorting troopships to the Middle East and to India.

For in this colossal world-campaign the scenes of action are widely separated, yet closely entwined strategically. 80,000 miles of trade routes are regularly patrolled by the British Navy.

Well over 100,000 British and Allied ships have been convoyed, and shipping losses in these convoys up to the end of February 1942, have been less than one in two hundred. During 1941, 30,000 vehicles (in 300 ships) were transported to the Middle East ; while up to March 1942, 3,000,000 tons of war supplies and food had been landed in Egyptian ports.

Prior to the occupation of Madagascar, a large expedition of all arms took many weeks on its 8,000 mile journey, but arrived safely, secretly and in time ! Thousands of troops were ferried across from Africa to the threatened Island of Ceylon.

The Royal Navy co-operated successfully with Commandos in the Lofoten Islands raid, St. Nazaire, and in other major raids and continue to threaten the enemy on a coastline of many thousands of miles.

Estimated losses inflicted on Japanese shipping in the Far East and the Pacific by the Royal Navy stood at the end of 1941 at 128,000 tons, and up to that time, 5,225,000 tons of Axis shipping was sunk or damaged. In 1941, 22 German surface-raiders and their supply ships were put out of action.

In action off the Malacca Straits in 1942, three large Japanese transport ships were accounted for by British submarines.

The RED Ensign



NO LESS DRAMATIC OR VALUABLE TO THE war effort as a whole are the contributions of the Merchant Navy.

These merchant vessels, and their gallant, intrepid crews still hold their own upon the seas, defying all obstacles, "taking" mines, bombs and torpedoes in their stride. Steadfastly they, too, face hardship in the Arctic zones or in the tropics, determined at all costs to do their arduous job thoroughly.

Without them would Britain have been able to honour her commitments to Russia?

When, in Moscow, Lord Beaverbrook pledged Britain to produce for the Soviet the staggering quantities of arms, medicaments and drugs asked for by the Russian leaders, the Merchant Seamen—visualising their heavy responsibility—might well have quailed.

Yet, to their undying glory, with the sole exception of one tank, the entire consignment was delivered.

During 1941 over a million tons of supplies and 830,000 vehicles were convoyed.

Owing to the bravery and vigilance of the Merchant Navy, between 30 and 40 million tons of raw materials, war supplies and food have been received yearly in the United Kingdom, and over 80 per cent. of Britain's war production has been carried overseas to other war fronts.

To keep pace with these huge demands on shipping, the shipyards have been taxed to their limit. As well as building new ships, and Britain now has a bigger shipbuilding programme on hand than in the last war, the shipyards have to keep damaged vessels in repair, and rush them out to sea again.

To achieve this, the number of men engaged in the shipbuilding industry has been doubled, and men and women alike work long hours.

In 1941 it was stated that 800,000 tons of shipping was the average per week being repaired. A vivid example of the speed-up in the shipbuilding yard proper is provided by recent performance when a 10,700-ton tramp was delivered three months after the keel was laid.

Meanwhile, again thanks to the Merchant Navy, a constant exchange of vital war supplies continues between Britain and the great Dominions.

It is a significant truth that before the war, when Empire Preference became law, the trading and exchange of many commodities between Britain and the Dominions greatly increased their joint prosperity.

Unquestionably these great countries should wisely pool their resources. Not only are they necessary to each other in the anxious perplexing days they are now passing through, but clearly the trade relations of Britain, Canada, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand will be more closely linked than ever before.

The men of the Merchant Navy show endless patience and endless endurance. The shore workers of the Allied Nations will not let them down. Caring ever for each other's interests, united in their aims, the Allies pulling together will attain victory.



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